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Weinberger says Soviets lying

WASHINGTON (R) — Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger Tuesday accused the Soviet Union of lying in a growing row with the United States over the fatal shooting of an American army major in East Germany last month. "They are just lying," he said, reaffirming the U.S. position that Moscow had pledged not to use force against American liaison officers in the East. Last week the State Department said the Soviet Union had agreed to renounce the use of force in such incidents following a meeting to discuss the killing of Major Arthur Nicholson by a Soviet sentry at a Soviet base. But the Soviet embassy issued a statement Monday saying that while it would not use force against known members of the U.S. liaison mission in East Germany, it reserved the right to do so in cases where an intruder's identity was unknown (See page 8).

Jordan Times

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Jordan agrees to attend urgent talks

TUNIS (Agencies) — The Arab League General Secretariat has received the consent of Jordan, Iraq and Djibouti to attend an extraordinary Arab League Council session called by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to debate the plight of Palestinians in Lebanon. The meeting, which will be held at foreign ministers' level, will examine the situation in Lebanon and the attacks on the Palestinian camps there as well as Israel's plans for sectarian partitioning of Lebanon, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said. The Arab League Council has met twice in the past month, both at Foreign Minister level and at the level of permanent representatives. It discussed recent fighting around Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon at both sessions. At the last session two weeks ago, called at Jordan's request, the league condemned "barbarous" attacks instigated by Israel on Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon and asked the group of Arab states at the U.N. to raise the issue in the Security Council.

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Bridges to close on Thursday

AMMAN (Petra) — King Hussein and Prince Mohammad bridges will be open for travellers to and from the occupied West Bank until 9 a.m. on Wednesday, April 24, and will be closed throughout Thursday, April 25, the Public Security Department said Tuesday. It said in a statement that the two bridges will re-open for travellers on Friday, April 26, only until 10 a.m.

Arafat leaves Dhaka after talks

DHAKA (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat left Dhaka Tuesday for an unknown destination after talks in which President Hosain Mohammad Ershad told him Bangladesh would expand its relations with the PLO, a senior official said. The PLO leader said he discussed the Iran-Iraq war with Gen. Ershad and they were still trying to work out a formula to end the conflict. He gave no details.

Israel says 2 commandos killed

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli forces killed two armed men in a firefight near Mount Barouk in Lebanon early Tuesday, the military command said. The clash came amid Israeli media reports that Israeli forces were preparing to evacuate the strategic mountain and the eastern sector facing the Syrian army within a few days.

Honecker begins visit to Italy

ROME (AP) — East German head of state Erich Honecker arrived in Italy Tuesday on his first official visit to a NATO-member country and for an audience with Pope John Paul II at the Vatican. Italy's Socialist Premier Bettino Craxi, who visited East Germany last July, greeted Mr. Honecker at the airport when he flew in from East Berlin.

Mass grave found in Algeria

ALGIERS (AP) — A grave containing the bodies of at least 62 Algerian men, women and children discovered near Milla in eastern Algeria in early April is new proof of the "terrible bestiality" of French troops during the Algerian war, the official Algerian news agency said Tuesday. A local farmer unearthed a human skull on April 2, the agency said.

Jewish terror trial to continue, court says

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli court Tuesday rejected petitions from 14 suspected Jewish terrorists to throw out confessions they made about attacks on Palestinians. The court ruled that there were no grounds for claims that they had been coerced into admitting to crimes. They have been charged in connection with 1980 car bombings that killed three Arab students and a pilot to blow up the Dome of the Rock Mosque.

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King, Omani leader review Arab affairs

Sultan Qaboos begins four-day state visit

Tripartite summit to be held in Aqaba

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Their Majesties King Hussein and Sultan Qaboos Ibn Sa'id of Oman, who arrived here on a four-day state visit Tuesday, began their first round of talks at the Royal Court.

The Jordanian News Agency, Petra, which reported the meeting, did not disclose the nature of the talks, but it was believed that the two leaders discussed current Arab affairs, the 54-month-old Iran-Iraq war and move for a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The talks were attended on the Jordanian side by His Highness Prince Mohammad, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri, Minister of Industry and Trade Supply Rajai Muasher, Finance Minister Hanna Odeh, Minister of Information Mohammad Al Khalib and Jordan's Ambassador to Oman, Mazen Nashashibi.

On the Omani side, the talks were attended by Deputy Prime Minister for Financial and Economic Affairs Qais Al Zawawi, Minister of Education and Youth Affairs Mufay Munhir, Minister of Industry Salem Ghazal, Minister of Information Abdul Aziz Al Rawwas, Minister of State for

Foreign Affairs Yusuf Ibn Abdullah, Sultan Qaboos's advisor for religious and historical affairs Mohammad Ibn Ahmad, director of the Sultan's office Ali Ma'mari and Omani's Ambassador to Jordan Abdullah Ibn Sa'id Blushi.

Sultan Qaboos, whose visit comes in response to an invitation by King Hussein, is also expected to join the King and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak for the inauguration of a ferry boat link between Aqaba and the Egyptian Sinai port of Nuweiba on April 25.

The three leaders are due to hold a tripartite summit at Aqaba. Officials said the summit will review Arab problems and matters relevant to the inter-Arab relations and means to boost them.

A 21-gun salute boomed out as King Hussein greeted the Sultan on his arrival.

Together at the airport with the King were Prince Mohammad, Crown Prince Hassan, Mr. Rifai, Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Lawzi, Lower House Speaker Akel Al Fayez, Mr. Jassem, Mr. Abu Odeh, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ad Ibn Zaid, General Sharif Zaid, Dep-

uty Prime Minister and Minister of Education Abdul Wahab Al Majali, Mr. Taher Al Masri, Dr. Muasher, other cabinet members, the dean of the diplomatic corps in Jordan, Arab diplomats and senior military and civil officials.

In a statement given to the press upon his arrival, Sultan Qaboos voiced pleasure being in Jordan. "We hope our talks with the King would result in genuine interpretation of effective Arab solidarity to serve our nations' issues and both countries interests," he said.

On Wednesday, the Sultan will accompany King Hussein to Aqaba, and cross the Red Sea to Nuweiba on Thursday for the first part of a ceremony inaugurating a new ferry line between Jordan and Egypt.

King Hussein and Sultan Qaboos will return to Aqaba, accompanied by President Mubarak, for the second part of the ceremony.

After spending another day in Aqaba as guest of the King, the Sultan will leave for Egypt on Saturday for a state visit there.

Later on Tuesday, Sultan Qaboos and the delegation accompanying him were the guests of honour at a banquet hosted by King Hussein. The dinner was attended by His Highness Prince Mohammad, Crown Prince Hassan, Mr. Rifai, and senior civil and military officials and heads of diplomatic missions in Jordan.

Falangists claim 2 more lives before pullback from points

SIDON (Agencies) — A Palestinian and a Lebanese army soldier were killed in a firefight with Falangist militiamen near Sidon Tuesday as the militiamen pulled out of some hilltop positions after 25 days of shelling on Palestinian refugee camps and Sidon residential neighbourhoods.

Police reported the fatalities after a shootout at Mieh Mieh refugee camp four kilometres southeast of Sidon between Palestinian fighters, their supporters and Lebanese troops on one side and a rearguard unit of the most Christian Falangist "Lebanese Forces".

The 30-minute battle with machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades violated a ceasefire in South Lebanon's fighting. It was called by "Lebanese Forces" commander Samir Geagea Monday.

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day in advance of the 11 a.m. (0900 GMT) withdrawal.

A plan to evacuate the fighters aboard a freighter named Charlie I to the Maronite Catholic heartland around Beirut was postponed for at least 24 hours when the vessel was unable to dock because of heavy seas, Falangist officials in the capital reported.

The officials, who declined to be named, said most of the 350 fighters of the "Lebanese Forces" around the southern city were regrouping near Jieh, 10 kilometres north of Sidon following a partial pullback.

However, Associated Press reporter Juan-Carlos Gurnio reported from Sidon that some Falangist units remained in strongpoints on hills east of the city. Radio stations reported that some militiamen were moving

towards Kfar Falous, 10 kilometres east of Sidon.

Tuesday's killings raised the death toll since March 29 to 113. More than 450 people have been wounded in the fighting in and around Lebanon's third largest city.

Sidon Mayor Ahmad Kalash said Monday the true would be successful only if all Falangist militiamen left the area.

In Beirut, President Amin Gemayel met U.S. Ambassador Reginald Bartholomew and told him Lebanon opposed the presence of the Israeli-backed "South Lebanon Army" (SLA) militia after Israel's promised withdrawal from the south, Beirut Radio said.

Israelis to "operate" in South Lebanon after pullout, page 2



Their Majesties King Hussein and Sultan Qaboos Ibn Sa'id of Oman Tuesday inspect a guard of honour mounted at Amman airport to mark the occasion of the Omani leader's arrival for a four-day state visit (Petra photo)

Assad meets Murphy, receives message from U.S. president

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — President Hafez Al Assad was handed a message Tuesday from President Ronald Reagan by visiting U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy during a three-hour meeting.

The official Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) gave no details on the contents of the letter. But it said the talks dealt with the situation in the volatile Middle East. "President Assad stressed Syria's views regarding the establishment of a comprehensive and just peace in the region on the basis of U.N. resolutions at an international peace conference," said the terse statement carried by the agency.

It also said that Mr. Murphy briefed Mr. Assad on his talks in the four other Middle East capitals he visited before his arrival in Damascus Sunday.

Mr. Murphy's shuttle has already taken him to Jordan, Egypt, Israel and Iraq. He was expected to also visit Saudi Arabia, and possibly Lebanon.

The meeting at Mr. Assad's Muhajirine Palace was attended

by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Shara and U.S. Ambassador William Eagleton.

Mr. Murphy, a former ambassador to Syria, had conferred with Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam, Syria's key expert on Lebanon.

Before his arrival in the area last week, State Department officials said Mr. Murphy would explore the possibility of a new American diplomatic initiative to end the 37-year-old Arab-Israeli war.

In Washington, U.S. officials Monday declined comment on Mr. Murphy's mission.

Mr. Murphy, whose visit was earlier described by officials as aimed at "narrowing differences" over moves towards settling the Middle East conflict, last week met a group of prominent Palestinians living in the occupied West Bank and Gaza. The Palestinians gave Mr. Murphy a memorandum reiterating their support for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and urging

the U.S. to open a dialogue with the organisation, which Washington refuses to talk until it recognises Israel.

During his visit to Egypt, Mr. Murphy met President Hosni Mubarak and informed Egyptian sources were quoted as saying by Reuters that the U.S. envoy might return to Jordan for a second visit and talks with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. The U.S., maintaining its refusal to talk to the PLO, has indicated that it was willing to talk with Palestinian leaders who are not members of the PLO.

Unconfirmed reports have said that the PLO and Jordan have agreed on the composition of such a delegation but senior PLO officials have denied the reports.

Mr. Murphy's visit is also aimed at preparing for a visit to Israel, and possibly Jordan, by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz next month. There have been no official announcements of Mr. Shultz's plan to visit Jordan after Israel, where he is scheduled to arrive on May 10.

Palestinian taxi driver found killed in W. Bank

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A Palestinian taxi driver was found shot dead early Tuesday in a car near Jerusalem and Israeli police immediately said "revenge seeking Jewish extremists" may have been responsible.

A Jewish taxi driver, David Caspi, was killed in Jerusalem Friday night and the police theory was based on the assumption that the murder of the Palestinian was in "revenge" by Jews. However, the Jerusalem Post reported on Monday that police had been backing down from their original theories that Palestinian activists were behind Caspi's killing. Police suspected robbery as motive for the Caspi murder, the Post said.

The Palestinian body was found slumped over the wheel after police received an anonymous phone call at about 1:30 a.m. (2230 GMT) that a taxi was parked on a highway to Jerusalem, apparently after an accident.

The police commander said the taxi was on the new highway connecting Jerusalem's Palestinian neighbourhood of Shuafat with the Jewish settlement of Maale Adumin in the Israeli-occupied West Bank just east of Jerusalem.

Police spokesman Rafi Levy tentatively identified the dead driver as Hamis Tukagiji, 32, from Shuafat.

The Yediot Ahronot newspaper and Israel Army Radio said the driver was shot with a 5.56mm caliber weapon, indicating either a Galil or M-16 rifle, both of which are issued to the Israeli army.

A police spokesman said the police were "starting off an investigation in every direction, without focusing on any particular direction."

Third World statesmen gather in Bandung to mark 1955 conference

BANDUNG (R) — Statesmen representing two thirds of the world's population arrived Tuesday to renew their commitment to the "Bandung spirit" which set in motion the process of decolonisation and helped spawn the Non-Aligned Movement 30 years ago.

A nostalgic journey by special train from Jakarta brought the ministers, ambassadors and other nationalist leaders from nearly 80 nations for the commemoration held in this west Java hill town in 1955.

Indonesian President Suharto will open the two-day meeting Wednesday with a keynote address expected to call for closer cooperation among Third World

nations in their pursuit for a better economic deal.

The gathering, which includes foreign ministers from 23 countries, will consider for adoption an Indonesian resolution expressing concern over a worsening debt crisis and other economic imbalances between the rich and poor nations.

The resolution calls for a curb in the arms race between the superpowers and condemns South Africa for its apartheid policies and refusal to give independence to Namibia.

Besides the main commemoration ceremonies, attention is focussed on expected behind-the-scenes dialogue between China and Indonesia to lay

the basis for an eventual normalisation of relations frozen 18 years ago.

Jakarta suspended diplomatic ties with Peking after an abortive communist coup in Indonesia in 1965. Indonesia has said it will not resume relations until China renounced its political and moral support to communist insurgents in South-east Asia.

The gathering in Bandung's "Freedom Mansion" is also expected to provide an opportunity for informal exchanges of views on the Iran-Iraq war, Afghanistan and Kampuchea.

Non-Aligned Movement is 30 years old, page 4

Sihanouk reportedly resigns as leader of anti-Vietnamese Kampuchean front

PEKING (R) — Prince Norodom Sihanouk has asked to resign as president of Kampuchea's precarious anti-Vietnamese guerrilla coalition, foreign diplomats said Tuesday.

They said Sihanouk wrote to Khieu Samphan, Khmer Rouge leader and coalition prime minister, tendering his resignation for health reasons.

No-one answered the telephone at Prince Sihanouk's residence in Pyongyang, North Korea, Tuesday and no details were available.

The diplomats said Prince Sihanouk, who has previously threatened to resign in protest against his two coalition partners, was not in bad health although he recently seemed tired and could be suffering from high blood pressure.

The coalition, recognised by the United Nations, links Prince Sihanouk's followers with those of former Prime Minister Son Sann



Prince Norodom Sihanouk

and the Communist Khmer Rouge which has been accused of causing the deaths of many thousands of Kampuchean during its 1975-78 government.

As former king and president of Kampuchea, Prince Sihanouk is useful to the guerrillas for his political respectability, which offsets the presence of the widely-reviled Khmer Rouge and allows Southeast Asian countries to back the coalition.

Prince Sihanouk's offer of resignation may reflect his unease about the limited aid given to his forces by the stronger Khmer Rouge during recent strong Vietnamese offensives against guerrilla bases on the Thai border, they said.

Beneath a veneer of unity against Vietnam, which invaded Kampuchea in 1978 and installed a pro-Hanoi government in Phnom Penh, the guerrilla alliance is bitterly divided.

In 1981 Sihanouk publicly rejected Khieu Samphan's statements that it was the Vietnamese who had killed three of the prince's children, his grandchildren and other relatives. Vietnam refuses to free re-education camp inmates, page 8

Peace in south is top priority for Sudan cabinet

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan's civilian cabinet, appointed by the country's new military rulers, Tuesday began to tackle a daunting list of problems with a settlement of the civil war in the south their main priority.

Famine, controversial Sharia Islamic Laws and efforts to improve relations with neighbouring Libya and Ethiopia were other key issues confronting the 15-man cabinet named Monday.

Al Gazouli Dufau Allah 50, a union activist and fierce critic of deposed leader Jaafar Numeiri, was appointed prime minister by the military council which seized power on April 6.

Three ministers, including Deputy Prime Minister Samuel Abu Bol, are from the south, where rebels commanded by John Garang have waged a two-year bush war.

Mr. Dufau Allah, in his first interview, urged Mr. Garang to

come to the negotiating table but the radio station of Mr. Garang's Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) rebels vowed to continue the war.

General Abdul Rahman Swaredahab, the head of the military council, said the government would be responsible to the council and would remain in power for a 12-month interim period.

Gen. Swaredahab has already moved to improve relations with Ethiopia, Libya and the Soviet Union, whom Numeiri often accused of supporting the estimated 15,000 SPLA rebels.

He sent envoys to Tripoli Monday for talks with Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi and has

pledged not to allow Eritrean guerrillas fighting Ethiopia to use Sudanese territory.

In a further move seen as a concession to southern sentiment, Gen. Swaredahab has promised to rescind a 1983 plan dividing the previously autonomous south into three provinces.

The prime minister, in an interview with Egypt's Middle East News Agency, said Sharia Laws strongly opposed by Christian and animist southerners would be reviewed.

Western diplomatic sources expected the new government to quickly prepare a package of economic measures to reassure Sudan's creditors and the International Monetary Fund.

An immediate task for ministers will be the severe drought affecting much of the country, and which Gen. Swaredahab has said is threatening the lives of one million Sudanese children.



TENSE SITUATION: Two armed Israeli soldiers patrol near a busy shopping area in Tel Aviv. Security is being tightened in advance of Israel's so-called "Memorial Day and Independence Day Holidays", which begins Tuesday night and lasts through Thursday (AP wirephoto)

Syria rejects partial Mideast solution

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria has said Middle East peace should be comprehensive and achieved through a U.N.-sponsored conference as partial solutions would only complicate the situation.

This was underlined by Vice-President Abdel Halim Khaddam during three hours of talks here with visiting U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy, the official Syrian News Agency SANA said.

"Comprehensive and just peace should be based on Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab lands and exercise by the Palestine people of their national rights, within the framework of an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations," SANA quoted Mr. Khaddam as saying.

Syria "rejects all partial and individual designs, which would complicate and endanger the situation in the region," Mr. Khaddam said, apparently referring to efforts to stage talks between the United States and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

Mr. Murphy, on a tour of the region to assess prospects of reviving the Middle East peace process, flew from Baghdad Sunday. He earlier visited Jordan, Israel and Egypt and is expected to go to Saudi Arabia.

Leaders of two Damascus-based radical Palestinian groups also denounced U.S. Middle East policy.

George Hubash, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) called on Arab countries to boycott the United States economically and sever diplomatic relations with Washington.

Mr. Nuweif Hawatneh, leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), said Mr. Murphy wanted to "drag the region into accepting U.S. conditions for making peace in the area."

Beirut Palestinians fear involvement in conflict

BEIRUT (R) — Alarmed by accusations of Palestinian involvement in recent inter-Muslim fighting, residents of Beirut refuse to be dragged into Lebanese and Middle Eastern power struggles.

The Palestinian camps of Bourj Al Barajneh, Sabra and Shatila were untouched by last week's fierce 15-hour battle across west Beirut in which Syrian-backed Druze and Shiite Muslim forces crushed the Sunni Muslim Murabitoun militia.

But Syria and its Lebanese militia allies have blamed the conflict on an alleged bid by Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chief Yasser Arafat to rebuild his strength in Lebanon, using his former Sunni militia allies as cover.

Mr. Arafat had close links with the Murabitoun before the 1982 Israeli siege of Beirut forced the PLO to evacuate the city, where an estimated 86,000 Palestinian refugees live out of a total of 244,000 in Lebanon.

Most analysts here say that if Palestinians joined in last week's fighting, they were individuals attached to the Murabitoun or people whose homes came under attack, and there was no organised involvement.

"I feel Arafat is being blamed for more than he is actually doing or has the means to do," said a foreign relief worker who regularly visits Beirut's Palestinian camps.

A spokesman for a Palestinian commando faction neutral in Syria's feud with Arafat told Reuters most Palestinians wanted to keep out of Lebanon's bitter sectarian conflicts.

"Palestinians are considered Sunnis in the local equation, even if our people do not have such views," said Souheil Natour of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP).

He admitted that some Palestinian groups had links with Lebanese factions, but denied they had helped the Murabitoun against the Shiite Amal militia or the Druze-led Progressive Soc-

Israelis to operate in S. Lebanon after pullout

TEL AVIV (R) — Some Israeli troops could continue to operate in Lebanon after the withdrawal due to be completed by June 1, a senior Israeli official has said.

The official, speaking at a press briefing on condition he not be identified, was asked if there would be Israeli outposts and patrols in Lebanon after June 1. "Yes," he replied.

He said the extent of any future Israeli military involvement in Lebanon depended on the level of commando activities against Israel.

The basic deployment... to deal with the threat from the north, will be basically from within our own border," the official said.

Military sources meanwhile confirmed reports from South Lebanon that Israeli convoys were transporting equipment to the border, apparently in advance of an imminent pullout from the east and the port of Tyre.

The cabinet has approved the completion of the third and last phase of the troop withdrawal and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Israel would establish a "security zone" patrolled by local Lebanese militias.

Mr. Rabin said Israel would also mount occasional patrols inside South Lebanon and might set up observation points there.

The size of the security zone has not been officially given but most estimates put it at eight to 15 kilometres.

Residents have told Reuters Lebanon that Israel was having trouble setting up village militia to patrol the zone.

The official Minister Chaim Bar Le said on television army troops would support local Lebanese forces as needed.

"We have to assume that in the initial period this need will be more intensive than it will be later, if things develop in the desirable direction," he said.

The Dava newspaper, closely associated with the Labour Party, said Prime Minister Shimon Peres expected a "limited and non-permanent presence of the army in the security zone, (which) need not last long if it emerges that the security situation allows for this."

Mr. Peres said Monday that Israel has made a "historic decision" to dismantle its permanent presence in Lebanon by the first of June while remaining on permanent alert.

Israeli newspapers, meanwhile, reported that installations on the eastern front facing the Syrian army were dismantled and the troops were awaiting a final order to abandon positions.

Mr. Peres, speaking to parliament's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, said future involvement in Lebanon "depends on the situation on the ground."

Lebanese resistance has vowed to resist any residual Israeli presence and the creation of a security zone by attacking Israel across the border.

Fateh leader says attack aimed at defence centre

AMMAN (AP) — A leading PLO official has said that a ship-borne attack on Israel was aimed at the defence headquarters in Tel Aviv and that some of the commandos may have safely landed ashore.

"The target of the operation was planned to be a military target, the Hakiya area... in Kaplan Street" where the Israeli Defence headquarters is located, said Khalil Wazir, deputy commander of the Fateh commando group — the largest such group in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Mr. Wazir, also known as Abu Jihad, would not comment on Israeli claims that he personally briefed the commando team before it left on its weekend mission.

Mr. Wazir disputed the Israeli version of the incident. Defence officials in Tel Aviv said Israeli sailors intercepted the 1,000-ton Activator 160 to 240 kilometres offshore and sank it before it could release any commandos.

Mr. Wazir said he believed the ship had already dropped off the commandos and was heading away from shore when it was sunk.

He said he believed at least two of the teams "reached shore and afterwards there were clashes. What (happened) after, we are waiting (to find out)."

He also said the ship was a vessel of at least 2,500 tons and could not have sunk as quickly as

the Israelis claimed.

Mr. Wazir said the attack is part of the Fateh policy "to continue our escalation of the armed struggle because the Israelis are blocking all ways in front of us for peace."

Mr. Wazir said he was referring to Israeli actions in general, and not only to its rejections of the substance of a Feb. 11 framework for Middle East peace worked out between King Hussein and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

That agreement called for Israel to withdraw from all lands it occupied in the 1967 war in return for peace and for creation of a Palestinian state confederated with Jordan. It also called for the PLO to have a full role in an international peace conference set up to oversee the peace.

Israel refuses to deal with the PLO — recognised by all Arab states as the sole voice of the Palestinian people — rejects the idea of a Palestinian state, insists it will never withdraw from all the occupied lands and rejects the call for an international peace conference.

Mr. Wazir accused the United States of supporting Israel "in its aggression against the Palestinian people, who are suffering so much inside the occupied territories or in the refugee camps in southern Lebanon."

The United States also opposes the idea of an international peace conference.

Washington welcomes free trade accord with Israel

WASHINGTON (USIA) — State Department Deputy Spokesman Edward Djerejian has said the Reagan administration considers the April 22 signature of a free trade area agreement between Israel and the United States "an important and positive step in the development of our bilateral economic ties."

His comment came less than two hours before the agreement was formally signed by U.S. Trade Representative William Brock and Israeli Minister of Industry and Trade Ariel Sharon at a ceremony in the Longworth House Office Building here in Washington.

Mr. Djerejian noted that the free trade area (FTA) agreement requires each country to remove trade barriers with respect to the other. (U.S.-Israel sign trade accord, page 7).

World aviation body holds session on Gulf war

MONTREAL (R) — The International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) held the closed session in response to Iran's demand that Iraq be forced to withdraw a notice issued on March 17 warning civilian aircraft to stay clear of Iranian airspace.

The 33-member governing council of the ICAO held the closed session in response to Iran's demand that Iraq be forced to withdraw a notice issued on March 17 warning civilian aircraft to stay clear of Iranian airspace.

Iran said it could not guarantee the safety of civilian aircraft flying over Iran as the war between the two Gulf states intensified.

Iran demanded on April 10 that the Montreal-based United Nations agency force Iraq to repeal the notice.

In recent months both Iran and Iraq have been firing missiles at each other's cities.

Meanwhile, college students held a mass rally in front of the Iranian parliament building in Tehran Tuesday to voice support for Iran's stance in the 36-month-old war with Iraq, the off-

icial Iranian News Agency (IRNA), reported.

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, Cyprus, said the students called for a "determined fight" against the Iraqi government, and voiced their readiness to go to the battlefronts.

The rally came at the end of Iranian Armed Forces week celebrations in Iranian cities, during which demonstrations and marches were held in Tehran and other Iranian cities in support of the continuation of the war.

The students warned Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the Gulf states, Egypt and Tunisia to stop their support to Iraq in order to "save themselves from the trouble of finding themselves confronted with the Islamic Republic."

The students charged that the United States was inclining "a small sector of the well-to-do class and crazy lovers of the Western model of life," and was counting on them to act as a "counter-balance to the zealous masses who are the enemies of the U.S." There was no elaboration.

Polisario urges pressure on Morocco

BRUSSELS (R) — A top official of the Polisario Front fighting for the independence of the Western Sahara has called for concerted pressure on Morocco by its Western and Arab friends to bring it to the negotiating table.

Bachir Moustapha jsayed, number two to Polisario Front leader Muhammad Abdul Aziz, said that talks he had with Moroccan representatives earlier this year had led nowhere and described Rabat's attitude as increasingly intransigent.

"It was a dialogue of the deaf," he told reporters in reference to the January meeting with Moroccan Interior Minister Driss

Sabri in Lisbon.

Mr. Sayed, speaking during a visit to Brussels for talks with Socialist and other sympathisers, said France, the United States and Saudi Arabia, Morocco's main backers, needed to put new pressure on Rabat to negotiate directly with the Polisario.

The two sides have been at war for 10 years since Spain withdrew from its former Saharan territory, handing it over to disputed Moroccan control.

Mr. Sayed said only such pressure could help bring peace to the territory, adding that France had a particular role to play.

The Algerian-backed front has

already proclaimed the "Saharan Arab Democratic Republic" which has been recognised as an independent state by the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

Mr. Sayed, permanent secretary of the Polisario Political Bureau, said that, by continuing to support Morocco, France was playing a dangerous game which might undermine its position in Africa.

Neither Morocco nor the Polisario were able to end the conflict militarily but the lack of a peaceful settlement might lead to an intensification of the conflict, Mr. Sayed said.

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20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic Series
21:30	Programme Review
21:45	News in Arabic
23:00	News in Arabic
FOREIGN CHANNEL	
18:00	French Programme: Des chiffres et des lettres
18:30	Cartoon
19:00	News in French
19:15	Microphone
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	The Punder
21:30	Documentary — The Pacific Ocean IEPs 41
22:00	News in English
22:30	Play of the Week: "Hida"
RADIO JORDAN	
835 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & party on 95.60 KHz, SW Tel: 774111-19	
07:30	Light Music
07:40	News
08:00	News Summary
08:30	Morning Show
10:00	News Summary
10:30	Morning Show Cont.
11:00	Pop Session
12:00	News Summary
12:30	Pop Session Cont.
13:00	News Summary
13:30	Pop Session
14:00	News Bulletin
14:10	Instrumentals
14:15	The Young Sound
15:00	Concert Hour
16:00	News Summary
16:05	Instrumentals
16:30	Old Favorites
17:00	Jordan Weekly
17:30	Pop Session
18:00	News Summary
18:05	Over a Cup of Tea
18:30	Arab Music
19:00	News Desk
19:30	Date with a Star
20:00	Evening Show
21:00	News Summary
21:05	Evening Show Cont.
21:55	News Summary
22:00	Evening Show Continued

WHAT'S GOING ON	
TODAY'S EVENTS	
EXHIBITIONS	
<p>* An exhibition of Arab calligraphy by Turkish artist Hassan Jalabi at the headquarters of the Jordanian-Turkish Friendship Society.</p> <p>* A painting exhibition by Spanish artist Jameel Omar at Alia Art Gallery.</p> <p>* An exhibition of Works by Samer Tabet, Omer Akuz, Omar Hamdan and Gulshan Saleem at Petra Bank art gallery.</p> <p>* Painting exhibition at Nazareth School.</p>	
CULTURAL WEEK	
<p>* Egyptian Cultural Week (art exhibition, book exhibition, poetry recitals, puppet show, folklore show) at the Royal Cultural Centre.</p>	
VIDEO	
<p>* "Surtout notes" at 4:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre.</p>	
FILM	
<p>* "A salute on a rebel" 7:00 p.m. at the American Centre.</p>	
CULTURAL CENTRES	
<p>Royal Cultural Centre. Tel: 661026/7</p> <p>American Centre 644371</p> <p>American Centre Library 641520</p> <p>British Council 636147-8</p> <p>French Cultural Centre 637009</p> <p>Goethe Institute 641993</p> <p>Soviet Cultural Centre 642023</p> <p>Spanish Cultural Centre 620409</p> <p>Turkish Cultural Centre 639777</p> <p>Haya Arts Centre 665195</p> <p>Hussien Youth City 667181</p> <p>Y.W.C.A. 641795</p> <p>Y.W.M.C.A. 664251</p> <p>Amman Municipal Library 626111</p> <p>University of Jordan Library 843555</p>	
MUSEUMS	
<p>Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre.</p>	

FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
<p>This information is supplied by Alia International Airport at the Queen Alia International Airport tel. (08) 53200-5, where it should always be verified.</p>	
ARRIVALS	
08:20	Namchi (PK)
09:30	Sanaa (Y)
10:30	Amman (RJ)
10:30	Cairo (MS)
10:45	Cairo (RJ)
10:45	Kuwait (RJ)
10:45	Jeddah (RJ)
11:00	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
11:20	Beirut (RJ)
12:15	Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GA)
14:40	Kuwait (RJ)
15:10	Jeddah (RJ)
18:10	Paris, Damascus (YA)
18:30	Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)
18:40	Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna
18:40	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
19:00	Bucharest, Istanbul (RJ)
19:00	Rome (RJ)
19:20	Bangkok (RJ)
19:30	Beirut (MEA)
19:30	Bangkok (RJ)
19:30	Cairo (RJ)
20:00	Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
20:50	Frankfurt, Damascus (LH)
21:00	Rome (RJ)
21:00	Cairo, Damascus (Y)
22:10	Baghdad (RJ)
03:15	Belgrade, Istanbul (GU)
DEPARTURES	
06:30	Istanbul, Amsterdam (KLM)
06:30	Damascus, Frankfurt (LH)
06:30	Beirut (RJ)
06:30	Amman (RJ)
06:30	Athens (OA)
06:45	Abu Dhabi, Namchi (PK)
06:45	Damascus, Rome (Alitalia)
06:45	Athens, Rome (PK)
06:45	Cairo (MS)
12:05	Larnaca, Zurich (SR)
13:00	Belgrade, London (RJ)
14:30	Doha, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GA)
15:30	Kuwait (RJ)
15:40	Rome (RJ)
16:40	Jeddah (SV)
20:30	Kuwait (RJ)
20:30	Sanaa (Y)
20:40	Dhahran (RJ)
21:00	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:15	Jeddah (RJ)
21:30	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
21:45	Cairo (RJ)
21:55	Kuwait (PK)
22:00	Sanaa (Y)
22:10	Baghdad (RJ)
04:15	Belgrade (GU)
PRAYER TIMES	
04:31	Fajr
05:30	Sunrise
12:35	Dhuhr
14:14	Asr
19:15	Maghrib
20:38	Isha

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Amman governorate	891228
Civil Defence Amman	198, 199
Civil Defence Irbid	193, 199
Civil Defence Qusein	770733
Ambulance	193, 775111
Amman downtown fire brigade	62090
First aid	630341
Blood bank	775121
Civil Defence rescue	661111
Fire headquarters	622090-3
Police rescue	192, 621111, 637777
Police headquarters	639141
Traffic police	656390-1
Electric Power Co.	636381-2
Municipal water service	771258-8
Queen Alia Int. Airport	(08) 53333

HOSPITALS

Hussein Medical Centre	813813/2
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn	644281/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amman	644412/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Malhas, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Simeoni	664171/4
Simeoni Hospital	845845/6
Al-Muhsin Hospital	66727/9
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/7
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen	77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	775111/26
Army, Marita	891611/5

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:	
Dr. Wa'el Kharrabeel	675035

MARKET PRICES

Upperflower price in Jls per kg.	
Apple	260/260
Banana	280/240
Banana (Mukammal)	240/210
Beans	240/210
Broad beans	140/110
Cabbage	60/40
Carrot (yellow)	140/110
Carrot (black)	140/110
Cauliflower	130/100
Cucumber (large)	100/70
Cucumber (small)	70/130
Eggplant (large)	170/140
Eggplant (small)	180/150
Garlic	360/320
Grapefruit	200/170
Mallow	440/400
Mandarin	250/180
Marrow (large)	100/70
Marrow (small)	160/130
Onion (dry)	150/120
Onion (green)	120/100
Oranges (Shammouti)	230/200
Parsley	80/80
Pear (American)	280/240
Pepper (sweet)	520/480
Pepper (hot)	180/140
Potatoes	360/300
Radishes	140/110
Squash	80/50
Tomatoes	120/90

Muasher appoints new administrative board for marketing company

AMMAN (Petra) — A new administrative committee has been set up to control the Jordanian Company for Processing and Marketing Agricultural Products, according to a decision by Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Rajai Muasher.

The committee will be chaired by Former Agriculture Minister Marwan Daudin who will also serve as the company's director general.

The committee will comprise Agriculture Ministry Under Secretary Salem Al Lawzi, Agriculture Credit Corporation Director General Sami Suma, Dr. Khalil Al Lobani and Mr. Mazem Abdul Qader. The decision will take effect immediately.

Six members of the company's board of directors submitted their resignations Monday.

Kayed repeals seatbelt regulation inside cities

AMMAN (J.T.) — Interior Minister Hassan Al Kayed said in a newspaper interview published Tuesday that he has decided to cancel regulations forcing drivers and passengers to use seatbelts within city limits in view of the numerous complaints received about their use.

In an interview with Al Dustour Arabic daily newspaper, Mr. Kayed said that drivers complained that they find it difficult to use the seatbelts inside the city and there was no need anyway for them due to the slow movement of traffic in the streets.

The Ministry of Interior has therefore decided to allow motorists to drive without using seatbelts within the boundaries of towns and cities and to use them only on highways, especially along the Desert Highway where seatbelts serve their purpose, Mr. Kayed added.

In the interview, Mr. Kayed also said that his ministry has issued instructions to police centres at border posts, bridges and airports to ease formalities and other procedures for incoming and outgoing travellers.

NEWS IN BRIEF

King expresses condolences to Hamzeh

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday deputed Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ad Ibn Zaid to convey his condolences to Minister of Health Zaid Hamzeh on the death of his father.

Brunei, W. Germany congratulate Rifai

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Al Rafai Tuesday received two congratulatory cables on the occasion of forming the new cabinet from Sultan Hassan Al Boulqah of Brunei and West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Cabinet approves industrial display

AMMAN (Petra) — The cabinet Tuesday approved the setting up of Jordan's industrial and agricultural exhibition this year at Marj Al Hamam, west of Amman. Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Rajai Muasher will open the three-month exhibition on June 10, a cabinet statement said.

Military attaches visit army division

AMMAN (Petra) — A group of military attaches from various diplomatic missions in Jordan Tuesday made a visit to the Fifth Royal Mechanised Division and were briefed by army commanders on the troop's activities and duties. The attaches, accompanied on the visit by senior army officers, inspected an exhibition of arms and equipment used by the units.

IDB extends 99 loans to businesses

AMMAN (Petra) — The Industrial Development Bank has approved 99 loans worth JD 299,800 during the first quarter of 1985. The loans were extended to finance metal industries, tourist restaurants, construction material workshops, tailors, car maintenance workshops, carpentry shops, printing, photography studios and handicrafts.

Jordan to attend U.N. environment talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in a United Nations conference on the environment which will be opened in Kenya on May 14. Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Sufian Al Telf will represent Jordan at the 10-day meeting.

Court sentences hashish trafficker

AMMAN (Petra) — The military court has sentenced Mohammed Abu Eideh to life imprisonment with hard labour and fined him JD 5,000 for trafficking hashish. The general military governor Tuesday endorsed the sentence.

Nurses initiate voluntary programme

AMMAN (Petra) — The Nursing Faculty at the University of Jordan will organise a voluntary work programme on Thursday at a number of mother and child centres in Muwaqqar, Dhiban and Umm Al Rasas. The programme entails lectures, the distribution of pamphlets on health awareness, documentaries on medical treatment and relevant activities. Three work teams, each of 10 students from the Nursing Faculty, are taking part in the programme.

Jordan attends symposium on Islamic architectural heritage

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Former Minister of Public Works Rayef Nijem, together with over 100 mayors and scientists from 25 Muslim countries, are currently taking part in a conference on the preservation of Islamic architectural heritage which opened in Istanbul Monday.

Mr. Nijem, an engineer and expert on Islamic architecture, was invited to attend in his private capacity through the Turkish embassy in Amman.

The conference, which will continue until Friday, is organised by the Arab Cities Organisation (ACO), the Arab Urban Development Institute (AUDI), and the Istanbul Municipality of the Marmara region.

In an opening speech, Saudi Arabian Minister of Municipalities and Rural Affairs Ibrahim Al Anzari said that Islamic communities should become acquainted with the original characteristics of Islamic cities.

Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Kaya Erdem said he was hopeful the conference would achieve positive results in preserving Islamic heritage.

The scientific presentations to the conference include such topics as recycling the experience of traditional Islamic urbanism, the revival of Islamic urbanism and redesigning the Islamic city.

Jordan had only recently started implementing projects aimed at preserving historic antiquities, mainly those of a highly architectural value. Projects in this field are being carried out in Jerash, Salt and other areas.



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Abdul Wahab Al Majali Tuesday inaugurates the Egyptian cultural week at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman (Petra photo)

Police arrest murderer of nine year-old girl

AMMAN (J.T.) — The corpse of a nine-year old girl, who disappeared on Feb. 5, was discovered on April 20, according to a report in the Al Rai Arabic daily newspaper.

The report quoted the director of Muhajereen police station, Major Sami Omari, as saying that the police received a telephone call informing them that a corpse had been discovered at an unfinished construction site. Police rushed to the scene and found the corpse, mostly covered by the earth. The police called the criminal court attorney-general and the forensic doctor before commencing their investigations.

The family of the missing child, who live near the site, were brought to the scene and both the mother and sister identified the body, Major Omari said.

The corpse was transferred to a nearby hospital and after examination it was established that the child was raped and then strangled to death, according to the report.

Major Omari said that after ten hours of continued investigations, police apprehended an Arab worker who had been guarding the building. The man confessed to his crime, made a statement to the police and was then taken to the scene to reenact the murder.

According to the article, the girl had left her school at 11 a.m. on Feb. 5 heading for home, but because of heavy rain she took shelter in the incomplete building where the 26-year-old worker was employed as a guard.

He asked her into his room, sat her on the bed and raped her before she fainted and started bleeding at the mouth. He then strangled her with a piece of cloth, put her body in a cement bag, carried her behind the building and buried the corpse, according to the report.

Major Omari told Al Rai that this was the fastest case in which a criminal was apprehended as the murderer was arrested within ten hours of the discovery of the body.

'Compucamps' — making it fun for Arab youth to learn about technology

By Olga Mikhael
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Under the motto of "Where Intensive Learning is a Fun", Team International, a leading Arab consultant and management company, is organising computer camps for Arab youth. The camps are to be held from July 1 in Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt and Cyprus.

The purpose of these camps, better known as "compucamps", is to introduce basic knowledge and the uses of computers, to transfer modern technology to Arab youth as part of the requirements for the near future, to strengthen the Arab spirit of brotherhood among the younger generation and to introduce Arab traditions, culture and arts in a scientific way.

Miss Rula Taneer, one of the girls' camp supervisors and Team International administrator who is currently visiting Jordan to promote the idea of compucamps among Jordanian youth, told the Jordan Times that last year's experience was a very successful one and added that 163 teenage boys from 13 Arab countries participated. Last year's compucamp lasted three weeks and took place in a well-equipped tourist complex in Tangiers, Morocco.

This year, Miss Taneer explained, all Arab youth between the ages of 10 and 24 years are invited to join four compucamps in Tangiers, Morocco, Beer-Al Bay village in Tunisia, Alexandria in Egypt and Nicosia in Cyprus. Two of these camps will be for girls.

Team International will provide each camp with a camp manager, technical assistance, 20 computer trainers, 20 social, cultural and educational trainers, a service team, a doctor, a fully equipped clinic, social and psychological specialists.

Besides the entertainment and cheerful atmosphere which Team International is offering to the youth participating in the camps, the company is emphasising the pedagogy side where intensive attention will be given to each and every participant while introducing them to the world of the computer.

Introduction to technology

Miss Taneer explained that every two people will have one set of computer equipment and that four hours a day will be spent on computer classes, partly on theory and partly on practice.

The highlight of the camps as Dr. Nabil Shaath, team's president, said will be the computer. Dr. Shaath believes that new technology of information is indivisible from society. "Through technology Team International will group Arab youth together and teach them self reliance, patience, logic and most important of all, promote the spirit of Arab unity," he said.

"The compucamp will get these Arab youth to act as an Arab group which sidesteps all the conflicts of their fathers," Dr. Shaath told reporters after the success of the first compucamp last year.

"Team International will welcome all parents to join their children in the compucamps and to share this exciting experience," Miss Taneer said.

Last year, she added, four teenage boys participated from Jordan, two of whom were accompanied by their parents. Miss Taneer went on to say that the parents who stayed in Tangiers for one week were astonished by the brotherly atmosphere and the well-disciplined

Arab jurists to discuss Palestine problem

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Palestine problem will be among the main topics to be discussed at a conference of the Arab Jurists Federation (AJF) to be opened in Amman on Sunday. The three-day conference, to be held by the Jordanian Jurists Association in cooperation with the AJF, will also discuss a number of subjects of concern to the federation and jurists work over the past 10 years. Judicial systems in the Arab World and Arab citizens' rights and freedoms.

Taking part in the conference are representatives of regional and international organisations concerned with human rights and specialists in law and legal affairs.

The AJF, established in 1975, is concerned with unifying and developing laws in the Arab World with a view to developing Arab society and to establish relations between Arab and foreign jurists.

Surgeons' society organises specialised annual conference

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Surgeons' Society (JSS) will hold its 13th annual conference in Amman on Thursday and the participants will give special attention to pediatric surgery. JSS President Abdul Aziz Al Bilbeisi announced here Tuesday.

He said in a press conference that 12 working papers will be presented to the two-day conference dealing with pediatrics, orthopaedic and neuro surgery among other medical specialisations.

Doctors and specialists who will take part in the conference, to be held at the Professional Association Complex in Amman, will come from Jordan and other Arab countries, he said.

The JSS has also invited two guest lecturers to the conference from the American University of Beirut, Dr. Bilbeisi added. These

two lecturers, Dr. Sami Obeid, a general surgeon and Dr. Michael Slim, a pediatric surgeon, will deliver lectures on the condition known as Mega Colon, and the difficulties in pediatric surgery as well as the surgical treatment of peptic ulcers, Dr. Bilbeisi told the Jordan Times.

He said that other papers will be presented by surgeons from the University of Jordan, the King Hussein Medical Centre and private specialists and physicians.

The JSS was established 13 years ago by 28 local surgeons but it now groups 285 members, according to Dr. Bilbeisi. It is an academic society concerned with both scientific and cultural activities and aims to raise the level of pediatric surgeons through conferences, lectures and panel discussions, Dr. Bilbeisi said.

Pension Fund to study Gulf investment potential in Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — A study will be conducted here on the number and types of Jordanian companies in which investors from Gulf countries can participate as shareholders, according to an agreement reached here Tuesday.

The agreement came in talks between Jordan Pension Fund officials and a representative from the Arab corporation for bank investments in Bahrain.

The corporation's executive director, Numeir Kardar, was briefed by Pension Fund on the activities and contributions that the fund makes to Jordanian economic development and discussed prospects for cooperation between the Pension Fund and the Bahrain-based corporation.

The study to be conducted by the Pension Fund will be referred to the corporation which will in turn conduct further measures concerning investments, according to a Pension Fund spokesman.

Majali inaugurates Egyptian culture, arts event at RCC

By Rama Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Deputising for His Majesty King Hussein, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Abdul Wahab Al Majali Tuesday inaugurated an Egyptian cultural week at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) in Amman.

The event, which has been organised by the Jordanian Ministry of Information, Culture, Tourism and Antiquities and the Egyptian Ministry of Culture includes a large book exhibition, a sculpture display, poetry evenings, puppet theatre, the famous Egyptian Folklore troupe "Rida", an Egyptian film week and a display of the information media available at the information office at the Egyptian embassy in Amman.

The book exhibition at the RCC Exhibition Hall includes publications and books on applied sciences, social sciences, history, political anthropology, art, contemporary playwrights in Egypt, novels, poetry books and general information. The art and sculpture exhibition displays 66 art works by prominent Egyptian artists whose works are part of the Egyptian National Art Museum collection.

The Rida folklore group will present an artistic show which combines Egyptian traditional songs accompanied by Egyptian dances representing all Egypt's governorates. The Rida troupe, which was established in 1959,

was the first Arabic group in the Arab World. It started with 14 dancers and singers and now comprises 150 participants. The orchestra is conducted by the famous maestro Atef Shararah and the music is composed by a number of prominent Egyptian composers such as Ali Rida, Tarek Al Sanbousi and Ali Ismael. The troupe has visited almost all the Arab World and has toured all over the world. The group has also won many awards and medals for their international performances.

"The Huge Night" is the play to be staged by the puppet theatre which was also established in 1959. Their performances are based on marionette and puppet shows along with professional crews who use different theatrical techniques of contemporary modern theatre such as masks 'Black Theatre' and acting.

During the week-long event, poetry lovers in Jordan will be able to hear recitals by four Egyptian poets: Taher Abu Fashieh, Mohammad Al Tuhami, Fathi Sa'id and Farouq Jouweidah, representing different schools.

Film week

Jordanians will also have the chance to see the Egyptian film week which will include documentaries on the history of Egyptian cinema along with other films. The shows will be arranged with the Jordanian Cine Club and will be shown at the Philadelphia Cinema.

The information service at the Egyptian embassy in Jordan has arranged all the informative media it uses as part of its services and which include a slide show on Egypt's geology, tourism, antiquities, the social life, women in Egypt, architectural designs, and school education facilities. Press releases, pamphlets and books on Egypt were displayed and distributed to people at free of charge.

Rida troupe will be performing at Al Hussein Cultural Palace on 25, 26, 28, 29. The puppet theatre will present two shows on a daily basis at the RCC, whereas the poetry evenings will be on 24, 26 and 28, also at the RCC.

Attending the inauguration was Egyptian Ambassador to Amman Ihab Wahbeh and a number of foreign diplomats. Egypt's Minister of Culture Mohammad Abdul Hamid Radwan, who was supposed to attend the inauguration, arrived in Amman later in the evening to attend a special performance of Rida troupe, attended by King Hussein and Sultan Qaboos Ibn Sa'id of Oman.

University holds activities to commemorate Yarmouk Battle

IRBID (J.T.) — Ceremonies opened at Yarmouk University Tuesday to commemorate the Battle of Yarmouk which was fought between the Byzantines and the Arabs at the outset of the Islamic conquests. The ceremonies, which will last until April 29, will cover cultural and sports activities, competitions and art exhibitions.

Opening the function Tuesday Dr. Yusef Ghawanneh, head of the history department at Yarmouk University, delivered a lecture outlining the importance of Yarmouk Battle in Arab history. The first day of events included sports displays that covered gymnastics, Taekwon Do martial arts and volleyball matches.

The university has prepared a wide-scale programme within the "Yarmouk Day" hut, according to Dr. Khaled Al Omari, dean of the students affairs department, the lighting of the flame and carrying it from the battle site to the university campus will take place next Monday, in view of the prevailing weather conditions on Tuesday.

According to Yarmouk University President Adnan Badran, various groups representing the local community in Irbiid Governorate will take part in the Yarmouk Day celebrations which are being held in cooperation with the Jordanian Armed Forces.

The second day of the celebrations will witness sports activities and a walking competition.

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٤. مواد لاصقة بوليميرية لاصقة صلبة SN. 1501.
٥. مواد لاصقة بوليميرية لاصقة صلبة SN. 1501.

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No to unbuckling seatbelts

THE interior minister's recent decision to relax the law on wearing car seatbelts is dangerous and wrong. Those who made it and welcomed it should for their own sake rethink their mind.

First, we do not really understand how a law that made wearing seatbelts compulsory in Jordan can be divided into two parts. You may not wear your seatbelt while driving inside cities on the one hand, but you have to on highways and roads outside towns, on the other hand. Does this mean that it is perfectly safe to drive in Amman or Zarqa or Salt without a seatbelt, but it is dangerous on the Amman-Zarqa highway? With the new regulation, Jordan must be the first country in the world to think of this novel but harmful idea. It is really no fun, and we had better think of the consequences before more lives are lost and needless injuries result.

Second, imagine that somebody who lives in central Amman wants to go to Irbid one day. He starts his car and travels to God knows where before he remembers to fasten his seatbelt. Where does he make the change: when driving or he stops at the new Sweileh roundabout? Further imagine the trouble and the danger which could be caused by performing the acrobatic first act, and the long lines of cars that would halt traffic on University Road and beyond by the second act. This assuming of course that you, the law-abiding citizen, know how to spot the sign-post indicating the end of Amman municipal borders and the starting point of the Irbid highway.

Would the minister of interior please explain his decision? Would he show us statistics that show the compulsory wearing of seatbelts in cities has not really prevented injury and loss of life? Could he tell us about one legitimate complaint that the old law has indeed complicated life for drivers in Amman and elsewhere? And why, after it has nearly become a habit for drivers to wear their seatbelts, does he now want to change a perfect law?

We are sure Mr. Hassan Al Kayed and his cabinet colleagues are not in the business of taking decisions and measures just because they are popular. But we certainly expect them to do the right things in running the affairs of the country, and only after careful study and analysis of the situations involved.

The new regulation on the seatbelts has not been made officially yet, as far as we can tell. We hope it will not be — ever.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Serving their Zionist master

WHEN THE Zionists invaded Lebanon, they found allies in some Lebanese groups that helped them carry out destruction and acts of genocide against the Lebanese and the Palestinians. These traitors helped the Israeli enemy to remain in South Lebanon, and the enemy extended help to them enabling them to consolidate their power in some areas of Lebanon. But now, with the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from South Lebanon, the traitors and the dissidents are undertaking a similar attitude and are withdrawing their forces from areas evacuated by the Israelis.

This is not a mere tactic, but these traitors now find themselves working without their Zionist allies in Lebanon. These traitors found that their role has come to an end after helping the Zionists to cause so much destruction in the territory. These dissidents have been helping the enemy to carry out a puritan of Lebanon and encouraging divisions and dissensions among the Lebanese people.

Some of these dissidents are being used at present as border police to protect the borders of the Zionist state in the north, and they have pledged to help the Israelis continue to impose their domination in South Lebanon. But the Lebanese national resistance, which had forced the Zionists to withdraw through heroic acts, will find no difficulty in inflicting defeat on the dissidents who had sold themselves to the enemy.

Al Dustour: Deep-rooted ties

SULTAN QABOOS of Oman is arriving in Amman on Tuesday at the invitation of King Hussein on an official visit to Jordan to take part in the inauguration of the Aquila-Nweibeh land-sea route on April 25.

In welcoming the sultan in Jordan, Jordanians look to the achievements of Oman in various fields with appreciation and admiration in spite of the difficult circumstances the country passed through over the past years. In 15 years, Oman, under Sultan Qabooos, was able to achieve great strides in economic and social development thus linking the glorious history of the country with its present, and reaffirming the importance of Oman as a strategic area in the international navigation routes which guarantee continuous oil shipments through the Hormuz Strait to the rest of the world.

The visit of Sultan Qabooos to Jordan reflects the strong brotherly ties binding Jordan with Oman which are linked by common national interests and goals. We welcome Sultan Qabooos and hope that the visit will lay down a stronger framework for further bilateral cooperation.

Sawt Al Shaab: Pursuing Arab cooperation

REBUILDING ARAB solidarity on a basis of common Arab action cannot be carried out in an atmosphere of divisions and estrangements nor can it take place in a whirlpool of side struggles and disputes. It can be achieved through consultations by the leaders in a spirit of frankness and openmindedness and by agreeing on the need to lay down principles and basis for jointly confronting the challenges and thwarting the conspiracies of the enemies of the Arab World.

On this firm concept and this broad basis, King Hussein meets Tuesday with Sultan Qabooos of Oman who starts an official visit to Jordan that represents the first step towards genuine consultations and cooperation between the two countries. In fact, the relations between Jordan and Oman are exemplary and should be copied by other Arab states.

The visit by Sultan Qabooos follows closely on the heels of the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee meetings, which just ended in Amman. The committee meeting was another form of Jordanian cooperation with Arab countries and presents a guarantee for joint Arab action in the future.

Both the visit of Sultan Qabooos and the Jordanian-Egyptian cooperation process reflect the three countries' determination to pursue the course of joint action in a brotherly atmosphere with the aim of safeguarding national Arab interests.

The Non-Aligned Movement is 30 years old

By John Rogers
 Reuter

LONDON — Thirty years after developing nations held the first Afro-Asian conference in Bandung, Indonesia, the "Third World" movement they founded has become a big and sometimes unwieldy force.

Its members, more than 100 developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, speak unanimously only on the broadest political issues, campaigning against colonialism and South Africa's system of racial separation, for instance.

They also agree on broad economic goals, including more aid, fairer trade terms and radical reforms in a global economic system dominated by Western industrial nations.

On these and other questions, the "Third World" works mainly through the 101-nation Non-Aligned Movement and the so-

called Group of 77 developing nations, a United Nations economic bargaining caucus that now has more than 120 members.

But things have changed since the heady days of Bandung, which Indonesia's then President Sukarno called "the first inter-continental conference of the so-called coloured peoples in the history of mankind."

The 29 participants at Bandung, which ended on April 24, 1955, included India's Jawaharlal Nehru, Josip Broz Tito of Yugoslavia, Egypt's Gamal Abdul Nasser and China's Chou En-Lai, all then in the forefront of anti-colonialism.

Today, that battle has largely been won. Only a handful of colonial cases are unsettled, chief among them Namibia (South West Africa), ruled by South Africa in defiance of the U.N.

Developing countries, mostly colonies 30 years ago, now have a

big majority at the U.N. and Indonesia invited about 90 nations to Bandung anniversary celebrations this week.

Although there was no follow-up meeting to Bandung, the Non-Aligned Movement, which held its first summit in 1961, is widely seen as its successor.

Critics of the movement say its catch-all nature and consensus decision-making system prevent incisive action.

It has been unable to settle conflicts like the Gulf war between members Iran and Iraq and its economic case has brought sympathy, but little action, from the industrialised West.

Some experts see the Non-Aligned Movement's chief role as a moral force independent of military pacts led by the United States and the Soviet Union, stressing the principles of peaceful co-existence originally endorsed at Bandung.

"It speaks out on the big issues," a Western diplomat says. "It's not just a passive reactor. It's too useful to disappear."

Non-aligned summit meetings every three years give "Third World" leaders, some of whom rarely travel otherwise, chances for personal meetings which can influence events. The next is due next year, probably in Baghdad if the Iran-Iraq war ends.

The movement also offers core members — notably Algeria, India, Cuba and Yugoslavia — a distinctive diplomatic identity.

However, officials of Western and some so-called moderate members such as Singapore sometimes question whether the movement is as even-handed as its name proclaims.

Summit communiques have generally been more critical of the United States than of the Soviet Union, and the movement has faced charges of anti-Western bias.

It nonetheless spurned efforts by Cuba, whose leader Fidel Castro was chairman from 1979 to 1983, to have the Soviet Union declared a "natural ally".

After the last summit at New Delhi in 1983 castigated U.S. policies in the "Third World", the late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi rejected suggestions that the movement had made the United States a "natural adversary".

A few months later, President Reagan criticised what he called "pseudo non-alignment" and said "client governments of the Soviet Union" had flocked into the movement.

Western officials say the movement has been more moderate under Indian leadership since 1983 than it was under Cuba's.

Mrs. Gandhi, Nehru's daughter, was steeped in the theoretical principles of "broad-brush non-alignment" — disarmament, peace, non-intervention and co-existence, diplomats say.

Her son and successor, Rajiv Gandhi, appears to be following her in using the movement to enhance India's diplomatic clout until it yields the chairmanship at next year's summit. He played a prominent role at a non-aligned meeting of officials on the Namibian question in New Delhi last week.

The main challenge facing the movement is to decide on a venue for the 1986 summit.

Iraq, which should have played host in 1983 but backed out because of the Gulf war, is favoured. Western diplomats say Baghdad is keen to end the war, now in its fifth year, before a September meeting of foreign ministers in Luanda, Angola, which will decide the venue.

Otherwise, a stopgap host will have to step in as India did last time. Yugoslavia or Algeria are seen as leading contenders.

'Star Wars' hi-tech boom could leave W.Europe behind

By Sidney Weiland
 Reuter

LONDON — West European nations are being forced to consider involvement in U.S. space defence research out of fear of lagging behind in a hi-tech boom.

European governments share deep misgivings about President Reagan's "Star Wars" project. But West Germany is discussing a research role and others are expected to do so soon.

Arms experts say the multi-billion-dollar Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) — the costliest military shield of all time, if it proves workable — will open new frontiers in high technology, and that Europe cannot afford to stand aside.

"SDI could lead to worldwide U.S. technological hegemony," a senior West German official says. He calls the spinoff effects of future research an "acute challenge

to Europe". U.S. allies are uncertain how to answer a month-old invitation to share in studies and tests to decide whether space-based defence is a realistic idea for the next century.

Officials say there is a growing feeling that, either as part of SDI or separately, Western Europe must now move into a more sophisticated phase of the hi-tech revolution.

Many techniques needed for SDI, such as lasers, radar, optics, rocket propulsion, data processing and artificial intelligence systems, have dual purpose applications.

European experts believe Washington's massive expenditure on space defence research will give U.S. firms an unbeatable lead in military technologies easily adaptable to civil uses.

High-energy lasers to destroy nuclear missiles can be used also to cut metals and in nuclear power plants.

Rocket propulsion techniques, if cheap enough, would reduce costs in building space stations and space industries.

"It is obvious the Europeans cannot just sit and watch while all this is going on," a NATO alliance policy analyst said.

West Germany and France favour a joint West European stand on SDI research, although together with Britain they are critical of the implications of a system they say could undercut the west's 40-year-old policy of nuclear deterrence.

NATO Secretary-General Lord Carrington is also pressing for collective European participation in research, as are top officials in the Brussels-based, 10-nation European Community.

While several countries may offer skills that could be plugged into SDI research — such as West Germany's lead in lasers and a

French headstart with optics — many Europeans are thinking of a separate though related technological route.

French External Relations Minister Roland Dumas is seeking support from other European ministers for a European Technology Community, loosely dubbed "Eureka" by the French.

A consortium would enable the Europeans to join in research while maintaining a political distance from SDI pending NATO discussions on its strategic implications, but would make it hard for the Reagan administration to withhold spinoff benefits.

Many European experts doubt that Europe will be allowed more than a token role, and that the invitation to share in research is a device to sidetrack allied political objections to SDI.

Others see a potential "brain drain" if Europe gets too deeply

involved. A purely European SDI is ruled out because of the area's relatively short distances and population density.

European Commission Vice-President Karl-Heinz Narjes, a West German responsible for the group's industrial policy, says: "Only if the potential European partners stand together and negotiate jointly can I see a satisfactory share for all."

Mr. Narjes calls the \$26 billion five-year SDI research programme "the greatest American national scientific, technological and industrial effort of this century".

France's President Francois Mitterrand sees SDI as a spur towards a technological race which he says could turn Europe into the "continent of the 21st century".

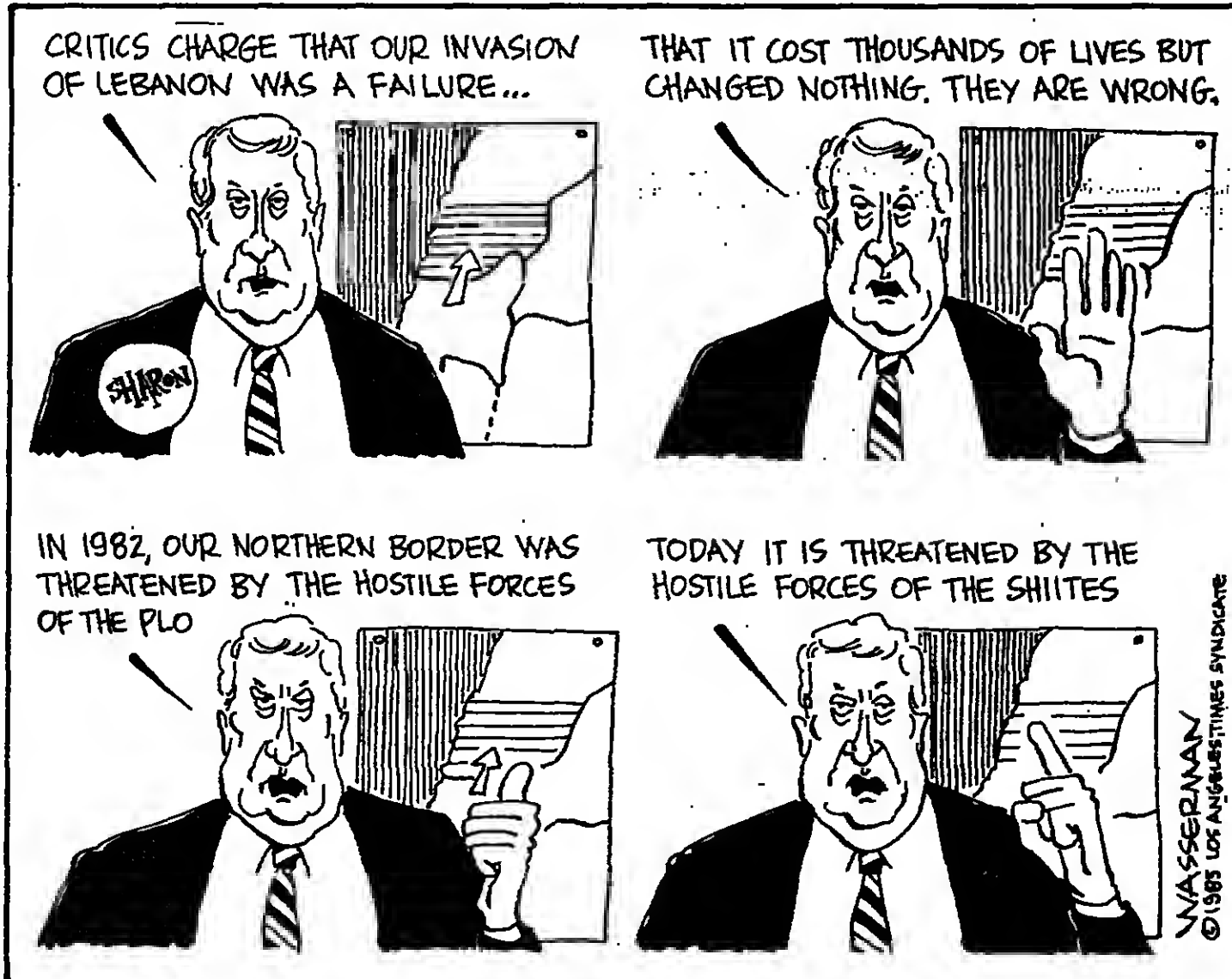
European analysts estimate U.S. public sector spending on

research and development this year will reach \$58.5 billion, many times outstripping what Europe can afford.

Japan is also fast overhauling Europe in dual purpose technologies. The whole of Western Europe has only a five per cent share in producing integrated circuits, compared with 95 per cent for the United States, Japan and South Korea.

Western Europe is already strong in space exploration and telecommunications and experts see a major role in information technology and biotechnology, the use of genetic engineering to create chemical resources.

"We are still travelling on a slow train while the U.S. and Japan are on a fast train," a Bonn official says. He warns that Europe risks becoming "technologically decoupled" from the two industrial pacesetters.



Liberia faces a long haul to democracy

Doubts remain whether Gen. Samuel Doe, Liberia's military leader, will keep his promise to return the country to democracy by the end of the year, writes Stephanie Gray.

THE release from detention of four Liberian opposition politicians recently has tempered widespread suspicions that the reported attempt on the life of Gen. Samuel Doe, the country's leader, was a ruse that could have been used to delay planned national elections.

Nevertheless, there is still much uncertainty about whether the general will stand by his pledge to return the country to civilian rule by the end of the year.

His own party, the National Democratic Party of Liberia, is the only one to have cleared the many hurdles placed in the way of official registration in advance of parliamentary and presidential polls set for October and November.

Gen. Doe has been heavily backed by U.S. aid since, as a master sergeant, he took power in the West African state in a coup five years ago.

He ordered the execution of Col. Moses Flanzumun deputy commander of the presidential guard, who had conspired on television to attempted assassination.

The colonel also claimed that

four opposition leaders and a U.S. national, serving as a security adviser, had promised him \$1 million if he succeeded, but the Liberian president later declared that an investigation by the security forces had found no substance to Col. Flanzumun's allegations.

This month's (April) events were particularly worrisome to the U.S. which attaches considerable importance to the transition to democracy in Liberia. The country, with a population of only 1.9 million, is, per capita, Washington's top aid recipient in Africa. Disbursements have increased from about \$9 million a year at the time Gen. Doe came to power to about \$78 million in 1983.

Overall proposed aid in the 1986 budget is \$93 million, much of which would go towards financing Liberia's \$1.2 billion foreign debt.

There is a huge U.S. communications installation in the country and U.S. companies such as Firestone and Unifroyl, plus the big American banks, have investments amounting to about \$400 million.

The steady increase in aid, most

of it in grant form, was intended largely to persuade Liberia away from the overtures of both Libya and Ethiopia, to which the previous government of Dr. William Tolbot had shown signs of susceptibility.

In the words of Dr. Patrick Seyon, a former vice-president of the University of Liberia, in evidence to the U.S. Congress subcommittee on foreign affairs: "The present military regime has been sustained in power by American aid."

"It therefore becomes a moral duty of the part of the American people and government to ensure that Liberia is returned to a genuine, constitutional and democratically elected government."

Officials in Washington admit that it has been "hard to distinguish between attempted coups and criminal actions" in Liberia. Six attempted coups have been alleged since Gen. Doe became leader. This month's attempt appears to have been genuine, although there have been no independent eyewitness accounts.

Gen. Doe has claimed that Col. Flanzumun tried to murder him because the colonel was about to be named in a scandal involving missing funds at the Liberia Produce Marketing Corporation for

which several top government officials have been brought to book.

U.S. concern about events in the country was heightened last August when troops put down a protest at the University of Liberia that followed the arrest for "security reasons" of Dr. Anos Sawyer, the writer of the country's new constitution and leader of the Liberia Action Party.

Dr. Sawyer has since been released but is forbidden to make political statements until he has provided an audit of the constitutional committee — long since disbanded — which he headed.

Dr. Sawyer was regarded as Gen. Doe's main contender for the presidency. Mr. Vernon Walters, President Ronald Reagan's former special envoy, made a quiet visit to Liberia and, while the subject of his bilateral consultations has not been disclosed, was accused by the Liberian government of meddling in the country's internal affairs.

Meanwhile, there are considerable obstacles to registration of the four main parties that have come up with the \$50,000 plus \$100,000 security needed to contest the elections.

Financial Times news feature.

Bombing sends shock waves in Guadeloupe tourist industry

By Alison Maitland
 Reuter

POINTE-A-PITRE, Guadeloupe — Guadeloupe's director of tourism, Eric Rotin, says a visitor to this French Caribbean island faces two main dangers: sunstroke or a close encounter with a bappy-go-lucky local driver.

It seemed all the more shocking, then, that an elderly American tourist on a cruise round the Antilles should have been one of the victims of a bomb attack in the heart of the main port of Pointe-A-Pitre last month.

The bomb exploded at lunchtime in a crowded restaurant, killing three people and injuring eight. There was no claim of responsibility and no one is sure who planted the bomb.

But whether or not it was the work of separatists seeking independence from France — who have claimed responsibility for previous attacks — tourist officials fear the trouble could seriously damage the trade in sandy beaches and sunshine.

The corrugated iron shiners of the restaurant have been firmly drawn down and the debris has gone. But memories of the blast remain vivid and sound an uncomfortable echo of violent conflict over independence claims by indigenous Melanesians in France's Pacific territory of New Caledonia.

Cruise ships touring the Caribbean from Miami or Puerto Rico cancelled 33 visits here during the three weeks after the bomb, cutting the annual number of stopovers by 15 per cent.

Restaurants and shops saw their business slump and about five per cent of hotel bookings were cancelled.

"No one is cancelling any more, but we're getting no new bookings, and that's worrying," says Mr. Rotin. "The attack cast a shadow over Guadeloupe."

Americans are the most frequent visitors here after the French. Angela Norris from Long Island, New York, had just arrived with her husband Jack aboard the cruiser Amerikanis, making its first trip to Pointe-A-Pitre since the blast.

"I was a little hesitant about getting off the ship," she said, standing in the street where the bomb exploded. "I've got three sons waiting for me at home and they want me back safe."

Tourism officials are eager to prove that the trade can bounce back.

It provides jobs directly and indirectly for up to 12,000 of the island's 330,000 inhabitants and in 1982 its economic spin-off was roughly a billion francs (\$1.1 billion) — a little less than a tenth of gross domestic product.

They argue that tourism could

become the island's most prosperous sector as the staple sugar industry declines.

But agriculture must first be diversified.

The absence of almost any crops other than sugar and bananas causes problems for hotels and restaurants, which have to buy limes and grapefruit at high cost from nearby islands.

Another complaint is that state-run Air-France's monopoly on the Europe-Antilles route keeps fares prohibitively high.

Tourism came to Guadeloupe in a big way only 12 years ago. A bevy of three-star hotels sprang up around Gosier to the south east of Pointe-A-Pitre, encouraged by tax incentives from Paris.

Alain Tochou, press spokesman for the island's hoteliers, describes Gosier as "a vast tourist ghetto". He even rues the building of the hotel tower block in which he has his office.

In the early 1970s, he says, no one thought of trying to fit in with local culture or architecture. "The Guadeloupeans were shocked at this explosion of buildings."

The palm-shaded swimming pools and laden banquet tables of Gosier's hotels are a world away from the little verandah huts roofed with corrugated iron that are home for many Guadeloupians.

The fact that most hotel employees earn minimum wages and could not afford the services they provide has also helped to create a gap between visitors and the local population.

Claude Makouke, leader of the main pro-independence party, the Popular Union for the Liberation of Guadeloupe (UPLG), argues that tourism has distorted local culture by pandering to the pre-conceptions of the New Yorker or Parisian.

"The tourists get off the plane, takes a coach, arrives at the hotel and doesn't leave it. Yet there are so many things to see," says Mr. Makouke, who opposes both the tour and the hotel industry.

Another handicap to tourism is Guadeloupe's bloody history of slavery, which remains a raw nerve in the island.

Alain Tochou, who came here from metropolitan France eight years ago, is well aware of the problem.

"The marked shyness of the people here is often taken for aggression," he says. "This shyness is a problem dating from slavery. It's something that is deeply rooted here, a colour problem — and it's partly our fault."

Eric Rotin, a Guadeloupien, says some blacks are unhappy about serving whites at table because this is reminiscent of the days of slavery. "Unfortunately," he says, "some people have confused service with servility."



Ralegaon Shindi village, Maharashtra, India: animal dung and vegetable wastes are put to good use; the village's 28 biogas plants produce fuel and slurry for fertiliser (earthscan photo)

To change the nation, change the villages

Television is raising expectations in India's long neglected rural areas. One Maharashtra village has shown what needs to be done. Can Rajiv Gandhi meet the expectations of the many others?

By Mary Lean

RALEGAON SHINDI, India — Rajiv Gandhi's election landslide owed much to televised campaigning, which a news satellite and relay stations brought to India's villages for the first time. Now those villages — 80 per cent of the population — expect him to deliver.

India's towns and villages are dying from neglect. Lack of investment in rural development is propelling their inhabitants into cities already bursting at the seams. To accommodate them, investment is directed toward large cities like Bombay, which receives an estimated 1,000 new immigrants per day.

Ralegaon Shindi is one of 7,000 villages in Bombay's Maharashtra state, whose soil is too dry to feed their populations. Ten years ago it was dying of thirst; its people were ready to abandon it to look for work in Bombay or Poona. A sleeping berth on the pavement and a shred of hope was more inviting than the slow suffocation of rural poverty.

But today, against all the odds, Ralegaon Shindi has come back from the dead. The village is transformed, a green island in the parched countryside, and this despite the worst drought of the century in 1979. Maharashtrians come from far away to see it, gathering in the temple — the site of the village television.

Whereas a fifth of Ralegaon Shindi's inhabitants went hungry in the mid-1970s, with the rest barely subsisting, today everyone has enough to eat. This year, for the first time, the village has surplus grain to sell. How has it man-

aged to reverse the tide of rural decay that threatens to engulf the state?

Fifteen million inhabitants of drought-prone Maharashtra depend on erratic seasonal rains to water their crops. Some receive as little as 250 mm of rain a year. Their problem is how to store the rain which falls during the monsoons, rather than letting it run away in seasonal rivers and streams. It is not just a question of wells and irrigation, but also of the soil's capacity to retain moisture.

Deforestation, too much reliance on chemical fertilisers, and the planting of large stands of water-guzzling crops like sugar cane, all rob the soil of moisture and the ability to absorb it. Overworked, deforested land tends to become compacted, with a hard-baked surface impervious to rain.

Ralegaon Shindi began by digging wells along the course of the river, which is dry for most of the year. The wells are fed by a percolation tank further upstream,

and pumps lift the water from the wells to the fields. The villagers have planted thousands of trees and shrubs to hold the water in the soil.

The leaves of these trees provide the raw material for green manure, which is cheaper than chemical fertiliser and retains more soil humidity. Each village nursery school child plants a tree and is responsible for it from then onwards.

The manure comes from the village's 28 biogas digesters. These tanks produce methane gas from leaves, crop wastes and animal dung — and the remaining slurry is spread on the fields. The gas is piped into village homes.

Half of India's energy is used for cooking. More and more this is taking the form of dung cakes, which are substituted for scarce firewood. Biogas plants, while producing both fuel and manure, extract 25 per cent more energy from dung than does burning it. There is a health benefit, too: communal latrines have been built to feed the biogas plants.

Most of the finance for these

improvements came from bank loans, which were speedily repaid, and from government subsidies. But the villagers themselves have to pay for part of each project they undertake. The money-lenders, who held the Ralegaon Shindi at their mercy 10 years ago have been replaced by a branch of the State bank.

Hazare believes that "you cannot change the face of a nation unless you change the face of the village". If he is right then Rajiv Gandhi's task is formidable, because 10 per cent of the world's population lives in the villages of India. Over 200,000 of these villages are without safe drinking water or adequate housing. More than 60,000 villages are officially classed as health problems — areas of endemic cholera or other infectious diseases.

But now, for the first time, villagers can see "the good life" on television, and the revolution of rising expectations is at hand. The challenge of rural development to meet these expectations may be Rajiv's toughest political test — Earthscan feature.

Germany digs into nuclear waste

Finding a home for nuclear waste is a growing problem for West Germany. Options include sending it to Russia or China, or even storing it in ice holes in Canada's frozen north. John Davies reports.

FRANKFURT — West Germany, which has built up a major network of nuclear power stations despite violent opposition, is pressing ahead with plans to deal with the growing volume of nuclear waste.

Nuclear experts are pursuing a long-term strategy of making the country more independent in its ability to get rid of radioactive spent nuclear fuel — both through reprocessing for future use and through permanent storage.

At present, most of West Germany's nuclear fuel reprocessing is carried out by the French at their plant at La Hague near Cherbourg, while smaller amounts have been treated in the U.K. and at the experimental reprocessing plant at Karlsruhe in southern Germany.

The West Germans now have decided to build their own commercial nuclear reprocessing plant at Wackersdorf, an old Bavarian mining village near the Czech border.

The plant will be built by a six-company consortium headed by KKW, other participants being Nukem and Kraftanlagen for nuclear plant and Hoechst, Dycerhoff and Widmann, and Heitkamp on the construction side.

The contract is valued at about DM5.2 billion (\$1.7 billion), and construction is expected to start in mid-summer.

West Germany's nuclear reactors so far have discharged between 1,000 and 2,000 tonnes of

used nuclear fuel. This year the country's 16 nuclear power stations and three experimental reactors are likely to turn out about 500 tonnes of spent nuclear fuel, and by the turn of the century the total is expected to have reached about 10,000 or 11,000 tonnes.

The Wackersdorf reprocessing plant is due to start up in 1993 and is reckoned to have capacity to treat only about 350 tonnes a year. Various options are open to handle the remainder, West German experts think.

Time is not thought to be a problem as nuclear fuel is now allowed six to seven years to cool down before reprocessing. "The 500 tonnes coming out of the reactors this year will not be available for reprocessing before about 1992," one nuclear industry expert said.

In the meantime, it can be kept at the reactors themselves, which have total storage capacity of 5,200 tonnes, equivalent to ten years' discharge. An intermediate storage centre with capacity of 1,500 tonnes has been built at Gorleben in Lower Saxony and another with similar capacity is to be built at Ahaus in North Rhine Westphalia.

The first containers of radioactive used fuel arrived at Gorleben late last year, but the project recently suffered a setback when a court granted an injunction halting deliveries, as part of the continuing legal battle between the nuclear industry and anti-nuclear

protestors.

One long-term option is simply to dispose of the waste by burying it permanently underground. Some experts claim that this would be more economical than reprocessing, although others argue that there are some uncertainties, such as procedures for guarding and monitoring the state of the containers stored underground.

Investigations are currently being made into the feasibility of permanent burial of nuclear waste in the salt caverns at Gorleben. Other sites being examined, also in Lower Saxony, are the disused Konrad iron ore mine near Salzgitter and the Aue salt mine near Wolfenbuetel.

"There is a consensus that it would be unwise just to dispose of used fuel. But it would also be unwise to close this option completely," one expert said. "There is general agreement that there will always be certain fuel that may not be ideal for reprocessing and recycling. So the long-term strategy is to have a mix — reprocessing in Germany and abroad, as well as disposal."

The West Germans are reluctant to predict their long-term use of the French reprocessing plant at La Hague. Although La Hague is being expanded, the French claim that they expect to need all of its capacity themselves by about the turn of the century.

The West Germans take this claim seriously but at the same time they are up to see the French as keen bargainers, out to secure long-term contracts.

In addition to existing arrangements for reprocessing in France and the U.K., some West German nuclear experts point to the faint possibility of direct storage in the frozen north of Canada. "They may be interested in just drilling holes in the ice," one expert said.

Other, though less likely, possibilities for permanent storage are China and the Soviet Union. China has already offered to store nuclear waste for Western Europe and there are suggestions that the Chinese may go ahead with a commercial nuclear reprocessing plant. The Bonn government, however, is considered unlikely, for political reasons, to approve involvement.

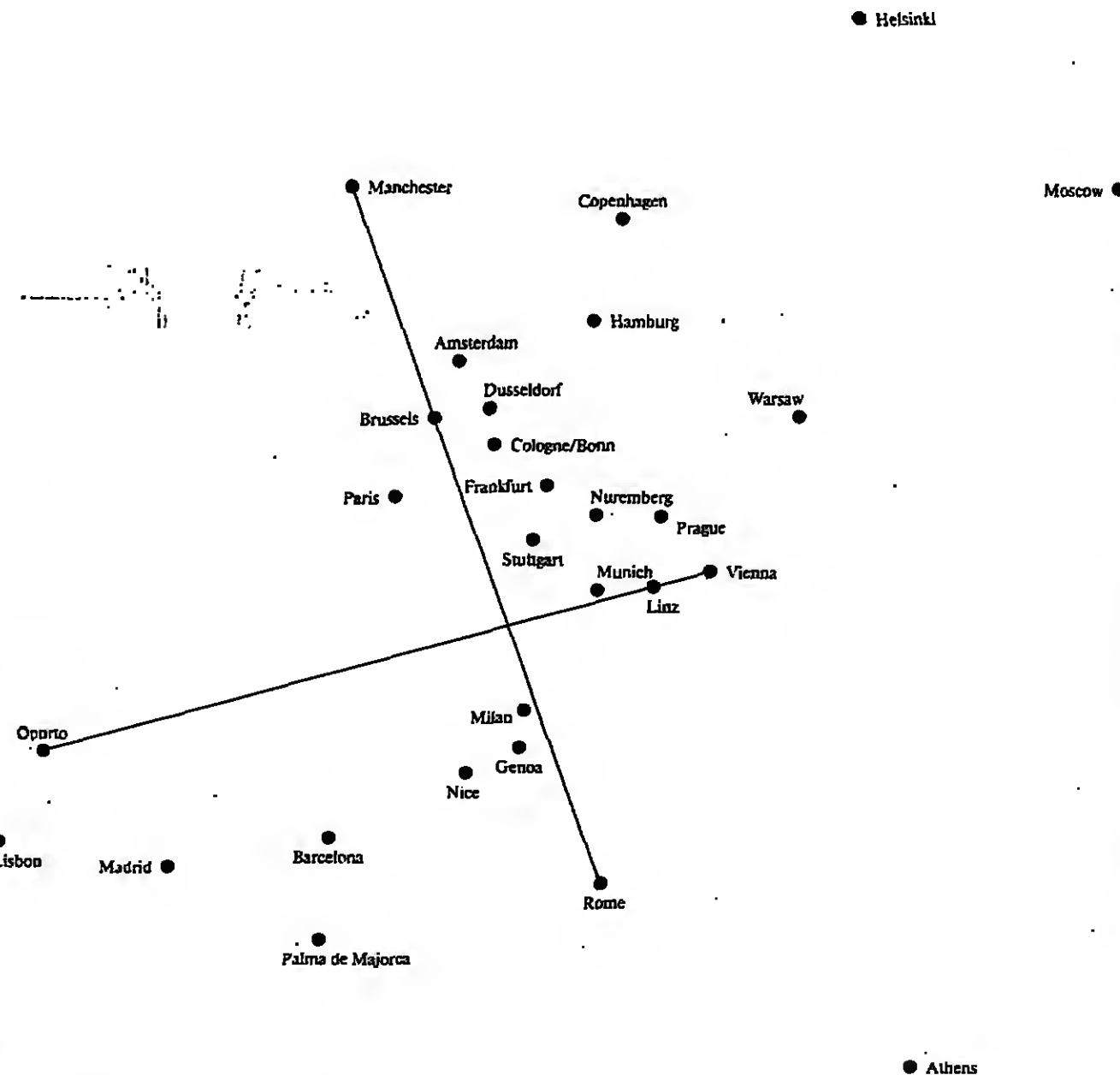
Nuclear experts point out that the Russians offered to allow Austria to send nuclear waste there. "The East Germans have done this for years and it works perfectly well," one expert said. "For them, nuclear fuel disposal is no problem at all. The Soviet Union comes to pick it up."

Another option open to West Germany is that the Wackersdorf reprocessing plant could be extended to handle a greater volume of used fuel, or a second plant could be built. This would depend greatly on the experience of the Wackersdorf project.

Although anti-nuclear protestors will fight the project with legal objections and demonstrations, construction work is expected to start shortly after Bavaria gives formal approval in the middle of this year.

— Financial Times news feature.

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DR. JOHN F. HARVEY, Dean of Students, INTERCOLLEGE of Management and Communication Studies in Cyprus arrived in Amman yesterday to meet officials of the Ministry of Education and to visit private English-language schools. Dr. Harvey will also receive parents and students and take applications for admission to INTERCOLLEGE. He will be staying at the Jerusalem International Meila Hotel from Sunday morning, April 21 through Saturday evening, April 27.

Call 665121-8 for appointment

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AMMAN JORDAN

Curren, Cash advance to second round of WCT championship

ATLANTA (R) — Second-seeded Kevin Curren Monday defeated Christo van Rensburg 6-3, 6-3 to advance to the second round of the \$375,000 WCT-Atlanta Championships.

Other seeds to advance included Pat Cash of Australia and Brad Gilbert of the United States. Top-seeded John McEnroe plays his first match Wednesday night.

Curren, a native of South Africa who became a U.S. citizen two weeks ago, had not played a major tournament in six weeks and was dissatisfied with his movement and timing, although he beat van Rensburg, a South African, in little more than an hour.

"Sometimes the first one's the toughest," said Curren, ranked seventh in the world. "It's good to get it under your belt. But my timing's not as good as it should be. I'm not playing up to potential."

The third-seeded Cash, number nine in the world, got off to a rusty start in beating American Jay Lapidus 4-6, 6-1, 6-4.

Lapidus, ranked 66th, broke Cash in the ninth game of the first set. "It wasn't so much my playing badly, but he played well," said Cash. "I never like to complain about the calls, but I got a rough call in the game that he broke me."

Gilbert, seeded eight, defeated Charles Honey of South Africa 6-3, 6-2. No other seeds played Monday.

In the first upset of the tournament, Steve Denton of the United States defeated 17-year-old Boris Becker of West Germany 6-7 (3-7), 6-4, 7-6 (7-5).

"I'm sure experience helps," said Denton. "But he has the enthusiasm of youth. I just got the breaks and played the big points better in the end when it counted. He missed a few by inches and I made a few."

Swede Mikael Pernfors, a wildcard in the tournament, lost a tiebreaker in the second set 12-14 to David Pate of the United States and lost the match 6-3, 7-6.

Pernfors, who plays college tennis for the University of Georgia, had six setpoints and saved three matchpoints in the tiebreaker but succumbed to Pate's superior net game.

In other first-round matches, Ramesh Krishnan of India beat Sammy Giammalva of the United States 6-4, 7-6 (7-0); Leif Shiras beat fellow-American Robert Green 6-3, 6-7 (2-7), 6-3; and American Paul Annacone beat countryman Terry Moor 6-3, 7-5.



China's super gymnast Li Ning on the pommel horse

Li Ning — China's gymnast

By He Zhou

PEKING — As completed ballots from all over the country arrived in Shanghai last February, what most Chinese sports fans already knew became official. Li Ning, receiving more than 1.56 million votes, was named the No. 1 athlete in China.

This is the second time in the past three years that the 23-year-old super gymnast has been picked by national ballot as the leader of China's "top 10 athletes." He deserves the honour.

At the 1984 Summer Olympics, Li collected three gold medals, one silver and one bronze — the most prolific medal total at the Los Angeles Games. His three golds were just one shy of Carl Lewis' four gold medals in track and field.

Li's medal harvest contributed a large share to China's first successful Olympic appearance, where the former "sick man of Asia" finished fourth in the medals table, with 32.

To Li and to those who watched his performance on TV, it was an unforgettable moment when China's five-star red flag was raised and its national anthem played for the third time at the Olympic gymnastic competition.

As Li was given his third gold medal, he closed his eyes, trying not to weep on the victory podium, but tears streamed down his face. "I've never shed tears so emotionally," recalled Li. "Not even at the 1982 World Cup, where I won six golds. This time I just couldn't control my emotions."

The '84 Olympics were the high point of 10 years of successful competitive performances for Li. In 1981, when Li Ning first competed internationally, he won three golds at the 11th University Games in Bucharest, Romania.

In the 21st World Championships in Moscow four months later, he attracted world attention when he finished sixth in the all-around event and helped the Chinese men's team capture the bronze medal. At the 1982 World Cup in Yugoslavia, he won six gold medals, a rare achievement in the history of gymnastic competition.

He also anchored the Chinese team that won the 22nd World Championships in 1983 in Budapest, Hungary — the first Chinese team victory over the strong Soviets.

In all, he has garnered 43 gold medals, at national and international competitions, including 10 at major meets such as the World Cup, World Championships and Olympic Games.

Li Ning was very feisty as a boy," said his father Li Shibo, a middle school music teacher in Liuzhou, a medium-sized city in south China's Guangxi province. "Who could have guessed he would become a world-class gymnast?"

Li Shibo had planned a musical career for his second son Li Ning. When the boy was three, his father began to teach him scales. Li Ning was interested in the beautiful sounds from his father's piano and soon displayed a talent for music.

But Li's interest soon shifted. He was frequently seen standing outside the neighbourhood school's small gym, looking through the windows at the gymnast trainees. He began trying to copy their somersaults, handstands and cartwheels. When his parents were out, he would spread his quilt on the floor to do his exercises, or get on the bed to practice handstands against the wall. His quilt quickly wore out and his mosquito net ripped in several places.

Li Shibo saw that the boy could not be drawn back to music. A sports buff in his own early years, Li asked a friend who was in charge of the school's gymnastic team to recruit his son. Li Ning, then only seven, was two years below the eligible age, was admitted.

In August 1971, when Li Ning was eight, coach Liang Wenjie from the provincial gymnastics team came to Liuzhou. The coach was looking for talented young gymnasts and had seen hundreds of candidates. One day the coach chanced upon Li Ning and asked what the boy could do.

"I can do splits, cartwheels and handstands," Li replied and eagerly demonstrated his skills. Impressed by the boy's ability and agility, the coach made him a special

member of the provincial gymnastics training team. Under Liang's watchful eyes, Li began training in earnest.

His first competitive success came in 1973 when he won the floor exercises and finished fourth in the parallel bars at a national junior tournament. He was 10 years old.

In 1974, Li got a taste of another side of an athlete's life. First, he injured his right elbow in a workout and the elbow became infected. Then he broke his left elbow and sprained his right ankle. His injuries kept him on the sidelines for three years.

When he finally recovered, Li returned to training and worked twice as hard as before. His efforts were soon rewarded. At the 1977 National Gymnastics Championships, up against adults, he outscored several seasoned performers and placed second in the floor exercises, behind only Li Yuejiu, China's top gymnast at that time.

In 1980, after winning a bronze medal in the individual all-around event in the National Championships, the 17-year-old Li made the national team and began training with nationally famous coach, Zhang Jian. He improved rapidly as an all-around competitor. At a regional preliminary to the 1981 nationals, he won five gold medals, including one for the all-around event.

An incredible winning streak followed — from the World University Games to the Los Angeles Olympics.

Li Ning's technical strength, said one expert, lies in the originality and difficulty of his movements, his smooth transition between movements, his strong musical feel and his psychological edge over others.

He began to learn bamboo painting, an art that requires great patience and perseverance, a year ago from young artist Wu Dongkui. When he has time, Li takes up a brush and practices painting bamboo.

Most importantly, according to Li's mentor, coach Zhang Jian, "painting really helps Li strengthen his will power."

Lloyd, Borg named best of the decade

NORWALK, Connecticut (AP) — Chris Evert Lloyd of the United States and Sweden's Bjorn Borg have been named the top tennis players of the last decade in a poll conducted by Tennis Magazine.

The results of the international ranking panel appear in a special 20th anniversary section of the magazine's May issue.

Ranked behind Lloyd and Borg, respectively, are Australia's Margaret Court, Smiley and Jimmy Connors of the United States.

London bids for '92 Olympics

LONDON (AP) — The city of London on Tuesday staked its claim to host the 1992 summer Olympic Games with a formal bid to Britain's National Olympic Committee.

The Lord Mayor of London, Sir Alan Traill, announced he had written to the British Olympic Association (BOA) submitting a preliminary bid.

Officials said Birmingham, Britain's second largest city, and Manchester also were planning to bid for the same games.

The BOA will decide July 12

which of the three applicants to forward to the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

The IOC, which has already received applications from six other international cities, will announce its decision in October 1986.

In his letter to the BOA, Traill said he was formally registering a bid "without financial commitment at this stage." Unconfirmed press reports said staging the games in London could cost the city up to 1 billion pounds (£1.3 billion dollars).

Dick Palmer, General Secretary of the BOA, said London and the other two potential British applicants still had "a great deal of homework to do."

"We need to know what plans they have for finance, for an Olympic village for stadiums and several other aspects. Only then can we decide which one has the best project," he told the Associated Press.

Iraq, Qatar World Cup clash to be moved to Calcutta

NEW DELHI (R) — The World Cup soccer match between Iraq and Qatar, due to be staged in Delhi on May 5, may be switched to Calcutta because of security worries.

Indian Football Federation Secretary Ashoke Ghosh said Delhi police were unable to guarantee security for the Asian qualifying game because it coincided with centenary celebrations of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party.

Police sources said if the match

was staged in Delhi security would have to be stepped up because of the large number of Iranian students in the capital.

The match, originally scheduled to be held in Baghdad, was moved to Delhi when the International Football Federation ruled Iraq must play their home matches at neutral venues because of the war with Iran.

Qatar and Iraq are level at the top of their qualifying group which also includes Jordan and the winners of the match on May 5 will go forward to a second-round tie against the United Arab Emirates.

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WATER AUTHORITY OF JORDAN Invitation to Bid Contract No. 68/103/85 Zarka-Russeifa Water and Sewerage Project

The Water Authority invites experienced contractors from member countries of the World Bank, Switzerland, Taiwan and contractors in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan who have been prequalified as general, first and second class water and sewerage and general and first roads and buildings by the Ministry of Public Works of Jordan to submit bids for the installation of about 17.5 km. of water mains ranging in diameter from 80 mm. to 400 mm. and the construction of about 4.7 km. of water lines ranging in diameter from 1/2" to 1 1/2", and the supply and construction of about 35.5 km. of sewers ranging in diameter from 150 mm. to 500 mm.

Eligible foreign contractors shall submit an envelope including the financial and technical data about the firms as well as technical capabilities. These data will be used for qualification, and bidders will be informed whether to submit a bid or not. Eligible foreign contractors are encouraged to associate with local contractors.

The qualification data envelopes are due no later than 18/5/1985. Prebid conference will be held on 18/5/1985, at 9.00 a.m. Jordan local time in the Water Authority main office in Amman.

Bids are due no later than 4/6/1985 at 12.00 noon Jordan local time, and should be delivered to Water Authority main office in Amman.

Copies of the tender documents are available at: WATER AUTHORITY, NABLUS ST., JABAL AL-HUSSEIN P.O. BOX (2412) AMMAN JORDAN TEL. 666111 TLX. 22439 WAJ JO

The cost of each copy of the tender document is JD 150 non-refundable.

Eng. M.S. Keilani
President
Water Authority

WATER AUTHORITY OF JORDAN Invitation to Bid Contract NO. 7A/102/85 ZARKA-RUSSEIFA WATER AND SEWERAGE PROJECT

The Water Authority of Jordan invites experienced contractors to submit bids for the installation of about 16.7 km. of water mains ranging in diameter from 80 mm. to 300 mm., and construction of about 4.5 km. of water lines ranging in diameter from 1/2" to 1 1/2", and the supply and construction of about 24.3 km. of sewers ranging in diameter from 150 mm. to 500 mm.

Contractors in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan who have been prequalified as general, first and second class water and sewerage and general and first roads and buildings are invited to submit bids.

Eligible foreign contractors under Islamic Development Bank (IDB) code shall submit an envelope including financial and technical data about the firms as well as technical capabilities. These data will be used for qualification, and bidders will be informed whether to submit a bid or not. Eligible foreign contractors are encouraged to associate with local contractors.

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Economy

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One sterling	1.2703/13	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3555/65	Canadian dollars
	3.0325/45	West German marks
	3.4320/50	Dutch guilders
	2.5110/40	Swiss francs
	61.10/15	Belgian francs
	9.2575/2625	French francs
	1937.0/9.0	Italian lire
	248.45/60	Japanese yen
	8.8400/8500	Swedish crowns
	8.7800/7900	Norwegian crowns
	10.8900/9000	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	325.23/325.75	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — The market closed lower after a dull session with no fresh factors to attract any buying interest, dealers said. The FTSE 100 share index at 1430 GMT was down 9.84 at 1,285.1. The EMI ended 12p lower at 42.2 having slipped to 41.6 on profit-taking following last week's sharp rise on bid rumours. Blue Circle shed 10p to 47.5 on fears that Thursday's results will be accompanied by a rights issue and ICI, also reporting Thursday, eased 7p to 777.

Rowntree MacKintosh moved against the trend, up 11p at 416. North American shares were mixed.

Government bonds were marked-up by up to 1/16 point following the fall in U.S. durable goods orders but ended up to 1/16 point easier due to lack of follow-through. Gold shares declined with the bullion price.

Banks ended above their initial lows on bargain hunting with NatWest 2p easier at 602 after 599 and Lloyds 2p firmer at 549 after 542. In mixed insurance, Guardian Royal gained 7p to 685 while Pearl shed 10p to 1,148.

Among oils, B.P. at 535 and Shell at 710 both declined 13p while Lasso shed 7p to 306. Australian shares rose sharply following the firm trend of the home markets.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR WED. APRIL 24, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Concentrate upon plans of action that have breadth of scope to them and then discuss them with persons in a position to aid you to make a successful issue of ventures.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Study brochures, papers, etc., for new ideas, and then talk over your finest ambitions with your partners.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Analyze financial affairs and investments to see how to make the most of present interests.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Try to make friends of very successful persons who can give you good ideas and support. Think along logical lines.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) If you tag along with kin you can gain the private wishes that mean a great deal to you. **FOCUS:** Discuss with your mate how best to make progress.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Contact those friends who can assist you to gain your personal goals and get their cooperation. Enjoy new kinds of sports.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Get your finest talents to the attention of bigwigs who can help you to commercialize on them.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) A good day for expansion so that you have a far greater amount of success in the future.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Plan how to make your romantic ideas work out ideally with the one you love. Be careful in making investments.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You can gain backing from both your partners and good friends for some pet project you have in mind.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Impress bigwigs with your equality of work and you get more support in the days ahead.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You can bring your finest talents to the attention of bigwigs today and gain their support and advice.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Listening to ideas of kin where property is concerned can be the means through which to make it more valuable.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be imbued with magnanimous ideas and should be given free rein to carry through with them, thereby benefiting self and those about.

Pan Am to sell Pacific wing to United Airlines

WASHINGTON (R) — Pan American World Airways (Pan Am) announced Monday it had agreed to sell its Pacific division, including 18 aircraft and rights to routes in the Pacific area, to United Airlines for \$750 million.

United Airlines Chairman Richard F. Ferris told a news conference his company would pay cash in the deal to purchase Pan Am's 18 aircraft, spare parts, property, facilities and all assets and rights to serve routes in the Pacific division.

Mr. Ferris said United would provide service to Pacific points now served by Pan Am, including Japan, China, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, South Korea, Thailand and the Philippines.

Under the agreement, Pan Am would keep its flights to Hawaii. Pan Am said the move would strengthen its financial and operational base, allowing it to concentrate its resources on providing service to Europe, the Middle East, the Indian subcontinent, the Caribbean and Latin America.

The deal is subject to government approval.

United, one of the largest domestic air carriers, said it plans to change its service to the Pacific countries now served by Pan Am, which pioneered the route.

Mr. Ferris said he approached Pan Am Chairman C. Edward Acker about the deal three times over the past two years, before Mr. Acker agreed to negotiate early this year.

"It represents a private sector response by two major airlines to mould their operations to the marketplace of today and tomorrow," Mr. Ferris said.

The Pacific division of Pan Am recorded profits of \$55 million last year and \$77 million the year before.

Although Pan Am's Atlantic division lost money last year, Mr. Acker said it would have scored a profit were it not for the strength of the dollar, and he expects the division to return to profitability next year and expand its operations.

The two airline executives also said the deal precludes Pan Am from trying to compete with United in the Pacific, except for Pan Am's Hawaii mainland service, and involves no layoffs of employees at either company.

Mr. Ferris said the U.S. Department of Transportation would have six months to decide whether to approve or reject the transfer of the Pacific routes to United.

Oil minister stresses market stability

ABU DHABI (Agencies) — United Arab Emirates Oil Minister Mana Saeed Al Oteiba was quoted Tuesday as stressing "the state of relative stability" prevailing on the international oil market.

Before leaving for Geneva to preside over the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) ministerial committee meeting due Tuesday, Dr. Al Oteiba told the newspaper Al Itihad that he was not expecting any negative effects on the market following the British price reduction of the North Sea oil from \$28.65 to \$27.50 per barrel.

He predicted "some improvement" in the oil market in the future, and described the current trend in the market as "heating the right way."

The OPEC ministerial committee will study the decision on policies of the non-OPEC oil-producing countries, he said.

Dr. Al Oteiba praised the decision of OPEC member countries to decrease price and production quotas by the ministerial council of the 13-nation cartel. Such adherence "would leave a positive impact on the market situation," he said.

The situation market monitoring committee, besides Dr. Al Oteiba, includes the oil ministers of Algeria, Iraq, Iran, Libya and Ecuador.

Dr. Al Oteiba will also take part in the meeting of the higher executive council of OPEC, or the cartel's follow-up committee, also due to convene in Geneva April 30, under the chairmanship of Saudi Arabia's Oil Minister Ahmed alki Yamani.

Dr. Al Oteiba will later leave for Algeria to lead the United Arab Emirates (UAE) delegation to the 34th meeting of the International Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), due to be held May 5. Seven of the OAPEC Arab oil-producing countries double as members of OPEC.

Meanwhile an OPEC experts' report on world oil market developments, prepared Monday, will focus on the second and third quarters of 1975 and recommend appropriate action in line with OPEC policy.

Attention will be given in factors which have affected market

performance since the last meeting of the monitoring committee and the 73rd extraordinary meeting of the OPEC ministerial conference in January.

The factors include the end of the U.K. coal miners' strike, the heavy drawdown of stocks by industrialised countries, the performance of the U.S. dollar, and non-OPEC production.

Officials here point out that recommendations on the second and third quarters will also take into account seasonal demand and prospects for economic growth in the industrialised countries, especially the United States.

Experts note that the market so far this year has been characterised by "relative stability and in excess", and continued adherence to the OPEC production ceiling would strengthen the trend.

Such adherence, they say, has contributed to the restoration of OPEC's credibility following the creation of the ministerial executive council to deal with the auditing and control of the 13 member countries' production and prices.

The monitoring committee was originally set up in March 1982 to act as an oil market watchdog and to make recommendations to the



Mana Al Oteiba ministerial conference. It was re-constituted last year, with its membership increased from four to six.

Nigeria to do more oil counter trade

On the other hand, Nigeria is planning more counter trade deals linking sales of its crude oil to purchases of goods from abroad. Oil Minister Tan David-West said Monday.

Last year Nigeria agreed to sell 40,000 barrels of oil a day to the Brazilian petroleum company Petrobras and to buy goods from a Brazilian trading house, Cotta, in a deal valued at \$1 billion.

Dr. David-West told a news conference: "We will do more of that, working in the ambit of not rocking the OPEC boat."

Olivetti increases profits

IVREA, Italy (R) — Olivetti, the Italian typewriter-to electronics group, Monday reported that it boosted profits by 20 per cent last year to 356 billion lire (\$187 million).

The improved result, on revenue of 4,578 billion lire (\$2.4 billion), appeared to vindicate the group's rapid expansion into office automation and such non-traditional activities as pasta-making under Chairman Carlo De Benedetti, industry analysts said.

The group, which is 25 per cent owned by American Telephone and Telegraph, increased its capital in 1984 by 63 per cent to 1,958 billion lire (\$1.02 billion).

Its acquisitions included a 49 per cent stake in the ailing Acorn computer group in Britain and the rescue of the troubled Buitoni Perugini chocolate to pasta group in Italy.

Mr. De Benedetti is often portrayed in the press as a rival to Fiat Chairman Giovanni Agnelli as Italy's leading private industrialist.

Since taking over in 1978 he has turned Olivetti from a precarious manufacturer of typewriters into Europe's foremost producer of electronic data and processing equipment.

Colombia requests \$1b loan

NEW YORK (R) — The Colombian government said Monday it has asked its international bank creditors for a loan of \$1 billion to help cover its external financing needs for 1985 and 1986.

Because Colombia plans to repay maturing credits of some \$750 million this year and next, the new loan would represent an increase in the country's outstanding public debt of about four per cent.

The loan request, made by Finance Minister Roberto Junguito at meetings that ended on Friday with a consultative committee of international banks chaired by Chemical Bank, was announced in a statement issued in New York Monday.

Colombia, with a total foreign debt of about \$11.5 billion, is the only major Latin American country that has not sought a rescheduling, and a new loan of \$1 billion would be the largest credit raised on a more or less voluntary basis for the region since the debt crisis began in 1982.

The government said the committee gave favourable consideration to the size of the loan requested and found it consistent with the needs of Colombia's economic programme.

A major share of the proceeds of the loan would be used to support export-related projects.

Major Greek fair opens today

ATHENS (J.P.I.) — "Philoxenia '85", the international tourism exhibition opens Wednesday in Thessaloniki and will continue until April 28.

The exhibition, which is organised by Hellexpo, the official Greek organisation for international exhibitions and conventions, will focus on international tourism services and will receive intensive promotional campaign that will interest everyone doing business in tourism according to an exhibition spokesman.

U.S., Israel sign free trade accord

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States and Israel Friday night signed an agreement setting up a free trade arrangement between the two countries which President Reagan said emphasised their closeness.

U.S. trade representative Mr. Bill Brock and Israeli Trade and Industry Minister Ariel Sharon signed the pact at a congressional ceremony.

Mr. Reagan said in a statement read by Mr. Brock: "It underscores the importance of Israel to the United States as an ally, a trading partner and as a friend, and it underscores the U.S. commitment to Israel's security and prosperity."

Former Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Shamir and Mr. Reagan started the trade negotiations in 1983 as a way to help Israel's economy.

"We agreed that the free trade area will be instrumental in helping Israel put its economy back on the foundation of vigorous, self-sustaining growth," Mr. Reagan said.

As the first such agreement between the U.S. and any country, it will lift all bilateral trade restrictions by 1995.

Sharon said Israel is making efforts to improve its economic situation. "By signing this agreement, Israel hopes to find ways to strengthen its economy and achieve economic independence," he said.

Mr. Brock noted that bilateral trade had totalled \$3.6 billion in 1984 and said he expected it to quadruple in a few years.

Congress is expected to approve the agreement swiftly within the 60 days allowed since all details were worked out between the administration and congressional leaders in advance.

Several American-made products such as roses, dried onions and garlic, citrus juices and gold chains are protected from import competition for five years.

Senator John Chafee, a Rhode Island Republican, said many in Congress would favour expanding the liberalised trade agreements to include other countries such as Canada.

Gulf nations to unify water, electricity fees

KUWAIT (R) — The six member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council have decided to unify tariffs for water and electricity, the Kuwait News Agency said Tuesday.

It said council ministers, who ended a one-day meeting here Monday night, underlined a need for conservation in the Gulf which relies heavily on desalination plants for water, and is a heavy user of electricity for air-cooling and refrigeration.

Kuwait's minister of electricity and water, Sheikh Abdul Muh-en Al Retaw, said the talks also covered prospects for a joint power network to serve the council, which groups Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

The Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research and the Petroleum and Mineral University in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, were studying the feasibility of such a project, in consultation with international advisers, the minister said.

Experts will meet in Dubai next week to assess progress.

The council would promote a thermal insulation programme, and was also studying prospects for conservation through alternative, renewable sources of energy.

"We have to cut the increasing consumption of subsidised and exportable fuels which are the backbone of our national wealth," the Kuwaiti minister told the meeting Monday.

CBS rejects takeover bid

NEW YORK (AP) — The board of CBS Inc. Monday unanimously rejected Mr. Ted Turner's multi-billion-dollar bid for the company, including one of the top three U.S. television networks, calling it "grossly inadequate" for the shareholders.

In its first comment on Mr. Turner's offer, the company issued a terse statement: "The CBS board of directors today rejected firmly and unanimously the proposed offer by Turner Broadcasting system Inc. to acquire CBS as being 'grossly inadequate and detrimental to the interests of CBS and its shareholders.'"

Mr. Turner announced plans Thursday to offer a package of stocks, bonds and notes in his own Atlanta-based Turner Broadcasting system Inc. for each of CBS's 29.7 million shares outstanding. He is offering no cash and said he has no partners in the deal.

He valued the package of securities \$175 a share, which would make the whole deal worth about \$150 billion. But Wall Street analysts generally valued the package at between \$5.250 and \$160 a share.

Mr. Turner said that if his bid was successful, he would take control of the board and then merge his company with the network, with the same terms offered to the shareholders, who had not tendered their shares. He also said he would sell CBS's non-broadcast operations, its radio stations and its Philadelphia TV station.

THE Daily Crossword by Avery P. Bromfield

ACROSS

- Instrument
- Mondale's nickname
- Weight of a container
- Too bad
- Longing tournament
- Clothes
- Weather forecast
- Hotel
- Crossed kingdom
- Some
- Heaven
- Rose
- More weather forecast
- Three ft.
- Sea-tarred
- Composer Erik
- Bridge lee
- Curl the lip
- Costa
- Caye
- Nuncupative
- Tennis call
- More weather forecast
- Deligent
- Lady of Spain
- able
- Quiz
- "— directed"
- Worls
- More weather forecast
- Film spool
- Pianist
- Peter's family
- Trim
- Ma Ferber
- Concord is one
- Ms Rowlands

DOWN

- Laugh
- Winglike
- Tear down
- Human split
- To and
- Isolate unit of weight
- "Now — me down"
- Tough tissue
- Astrology
- item
- Fl. Worth school letters
- Soprano Gluck
- Forecast word
- Whirlpool
- Pelage
- Flax fibers
- Son of Seth
- Fly high
- "Toys in the"
- Young student
- "I cannot —"
- Have
- a kind
- Useful
- Gamboling man
- William
- Butler
- Certain glass
- Heathcliff
- seaside
- Chase
- Scrub
- Detection device
- 50 Altaverting
- 51 First game
- 52 Carrying on word
- 53 Field
- 54 Me Kett
- 55 Chicken — king
- 57 Sugar suit.
- 58 Taj Mahal site
- 60 Hall
- 62 Author James
- 63 Comparison
- 64 Me Kett
- 65 Chicken — king
- 67 Sugar suit.

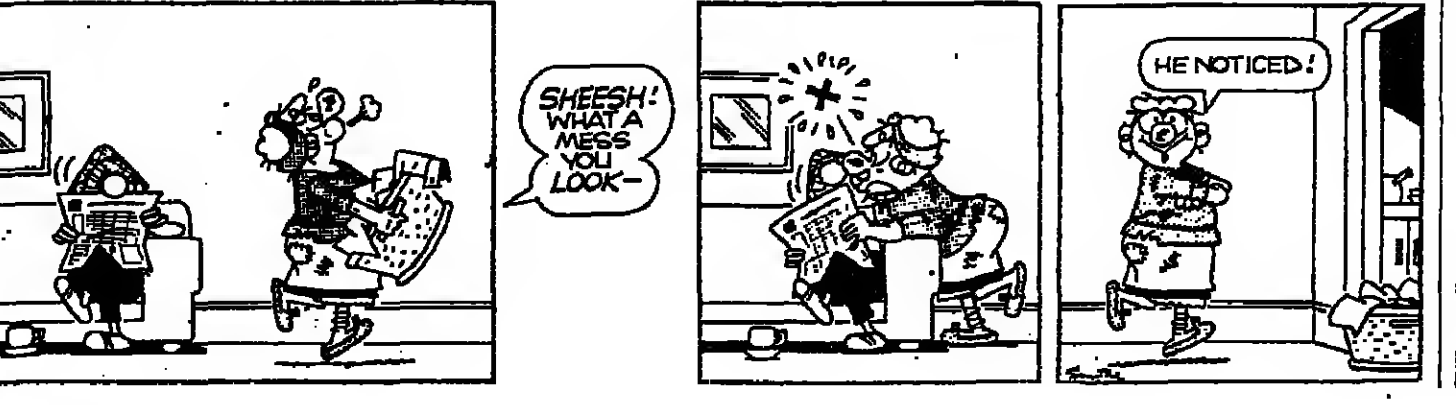
Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LICCO

ORFID

BONKER

APHERM

WHAT A MAN WHO CAN'T BEAR CHILDREN UNDOUBTEDLY IS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

Saturday's Jumbles: CABIN LITHE GOSPEL HELPER

Answer: One isn't sure to say it — PERHAPS

Soviets do not renounce use of force 'to prevent intrusion'

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Soviet Union, disputing the U.S. State Department's account, said Monday it had not ruled out the use of force to prevent a recurrence of the shooting of a U.S. army major by a Soviet sentry in East Germany.

The State Department stood its ground, however, and called the Soviet interpretation of the results of a top-level meeting of U.S. and Soviet military commanders "unacceptable."

In a statement issued here, the Soviets called the slaying of Maj. Arthur D. Nicholson "regrettable" but said they had not "renounced the right to take legitimate steps" to stop an unknown intruder on an espionage mission.

Maj. Nicholson was shot while on a reconnaissance mission. After a meeting of the top U.S. and Soviet military officers in Germany, the State Department announced last Tuesday the Soviets had agreed not to permit "use of force or weapons" against American military liaison personnel.

Meanwhile, earlier in the day before the Soviet statement was issued, the Pentagon announced cancellation of a planned trip to the Soviet Union by 15 officers from the National War College.

The trip, which had been scheduled to begin last Saturday, was called off because of the Soviets' had not met U.S. demands for an

apology and compensation in the Nicholson killing, said Lt.-Col. Gene Sands, a Pentagon spokesman.

The Soviet statement, signed by Boris Malukhov, a second secretary in the Soviet embassy, said "one cannot help but be puzzled" by the State Department account.

It accused the department of presenting the results of the meeting of the military officers in a distorted way.

First, the embassy said, the Soviets had not agreed to consider some sort of compensation for Maj. Nicholson's slaying. Second, it said, the Soviets had not renounced the right to take legitimate steps provided for by military manuals.

"The actions of the Soviet sentry were completely lawful," the statement said. "They were not taken against a member of the U.S. military mission, as such, but against an unknown intruder who was carrying out an intelligence mission and did not comply with the warnings of the sentry."

A State Department spokesman, Charles Sylvester, said Monday night: "We have seen the press reports on the Nicholson case coming from the Soviet embassy. We have informed the Soviets that their interpretation of the issue is unacceptable. We stand by our version of the ... meeting."

Except for restricted areas, the officers are allowed freedom of movement. If they engage in questionable activities, they are detained but, according to U.S. officials, are not to be harmed.

The Reagan administration said Monday a Soviet air controller in Berlin threatened a year ago to shoot down a corporate aircraft unless the United States provided Soviet authorities with more information about the plane.

State Department spokesman Edward Djerejian said the United States protested the threat to Soviet authorities and "the Soviet controller's remark was officially rejected by Soviet officials."

He said there has been no recurrence of such remarks since. Mr. Djerejian said the incident occurred over Berlin when a Soviet jet controller suggested the aircraft could be intercepted by Soviet fighters unless U.S. officials identified the corporation which owned the plane.

The corporate name was provided to the Soviets, although Mr. Djerejian did not disclose the name Monday.

The incident was reported Monday by columnist Evans and Novak, but Mr. Djerejian said it had been made known to reporters a year ago.

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FUNERAL PROCESSION: Anxious funeral ceremonies Monday in Brasilia. Mr. Neves surrounded the tank carrying the flag and died before he was able to take office (AP flower-draped coffin of Tancredo Neves during wirephoto)

Anglo-Soviet ties chilled after spy row

LONDON (R) — Britain said Tuesday it hoped a thaw in Anglo-Soviet relations would continue despite a series of retaliatory expulsions of diplomats in London and Moscow.

"It doesn't interfere with our basic objective of seeking to continue the improvement in relations," Junior Foreign Office Minister Malcolm Rifkind said in a radio interview.

"We have indicated quite clearly that notwithstanding these events we wish to see relations with the Soviet Union continue to improve and become more sub-

stantive." Britain's naval attaché and two other embassy staff were ordered out of Moscow Monday night after Britain expelled two Soviet officials from London last week for spying.

Britain responded instantly by expelling three more Soviet diplomats whom it had told the Kremlin privately must be pulled out for activities "incompatible with their status."

The British said they had offered a deal: No Soviet reprisals for the first two expulsions — and the

other three Russians could leave without publicity. But Moscow, said Britain, "ignored this warning" and London went public on the other alleged spies.

The Soviet embassy in London responded sharply to the expulsions, saying the British government would be responsible for any consequences. A statement, read out by a spokesman on the embassy steps early Tuesday, said the accusations against all five Soviet diplomats were groundless.

Gorbachev speaks during Communist Party plenum

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Mikhail Gorbachev spoke Tuesday to the Communist Party group that selected him as Soviet leader, the official News Agency TASS reported, without providing any details of the address.

Mr. Gorbachev spoke to the Central Committee at its spring meeting, the first regular party plenum since he replaced the late Konstantin Chernenko as general secretary on March 11.

"A plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union opened today," TASS said in a one-paragraph dispatch.

It said Mr. Gorbachev addressed the meeting with a report on the upcoming 27th Party Congress, expected late this year or in early 1992. No specific date was announced.

There was no word on what, if any, major personnel changes were made by the plenum. The Central Committee, whose membership is believed to number more than 300, has the power to approve changes in the party's top-level leadership, including appointments to the ruling politburo and to the committee's powerful secretariat.

Western diplomats and journalists have been waiting for the meeting as a sign of how much sway Mr. Gorbachev holds in the Kremlin, whose leadership is divided between an older and younger generation.

There are currently only 10 full members of the politburo and six candidates, or non-voting members. The full membership has varied from 16 under Leonid Brezhnev to its current low following the deaths of Chernenko and Yuri Andropov.

Meanwhile the Soviet Union has reserved Sept. 24 for a policy speech in the U.N. General Assembly and a senior U.N. official said Monday night that Mikhail Gorbachev seemed likely to deliver it.

The official, who did not want to be identified, also said the United States was likely to speak on Sept. 23, first day of what is known here as the "general debate," and that he assumed President Reagan would take the floor.

The likely presence of both leaders in New York added to the expectation in diplomatic circles that they would seize the opportunity to hold their first face-to-face meeting.

Neither the United States nor the Soviet Union has advised Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar of the level of its representation at the 40th General Assembly, but planning now is going ahead on the assumption that the leaders of both superpowers will be here, the U.N. official said.

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South Africa detains anti-apartheid leader

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Security police detained a leading anti-apartheid campaigner Tuesday morning as he got off a commercial flight that arrived in Port Elizabeth in the riot-weary eastern Cape province, a source close to the victim said.

The source, who said he was with the detainee, Patrick Lekota, when police moved in, told the Associated Press the officers escorted Mr. Lekota to a car and drove off. The source, who asked not to be identified, said he asked for an explanation, and was told, "he (Lekota) is being detained."

Mr. Lekota, a black, is the national publicity secretary for the United Democratic Front (UDF), South Africa's largest, multi-racial organization opposed to apartheid. The front says it represents 600 organizations, mostly community groups, and these account for some 2 million people.

Last week and again on Monday, President P.W. Botha attacked the Democratic Front for

allegedly seeking revolution to end white-minority rule. The front has said it does not seek violence but promises to oppose all forms of racial segregation and white domination.

Sixteen front officials are imprisoned awaiting trial on unspecified treason charges. Apartheid's opponents such as Nobel Peace Prize winner Bishop Desmond Tutu have wondered aloud whether the government, by refusing to divulge charges against the 16 or settling a trial date, might be simply trying to remove them from the political stage.

Meanwhile South African police Monday night reported widespread protests and arson in the country's black townships after 12 people died in weekend violence.

Ten men died at the weekend in tribal fighting at a gold mine, mineworkers Anglo American Corporation said, while police said two men were killed in repeated clashes between protesters and police in the eastern Cape.

Polish court rejects appeals by priest's killers

WARSAW (R) — Appeals by four security police officers convicted in the murder of pro-Solidarity priest Jerzy Popieluszko have been rejected by Poland's supreme court.

Chief Judge Jerzy Mikos also refused to reduce the prison terms imposed on Colonel Adam Pietruszka, Captain Grzegorz Pietrowski, Lieutenant Waldemar Chmielewski and Lieutenant Leszek Pekala.

Col. Pietruszka and Capt. Pietrowski received 25 years each, Lt. Pekala 15 and Lt. Chmielewski 14 when their six-week trial ended in February.

Judge Mikos said Monday: "The punishment to which the defendants were sentenced is severe indeed but not severe enough, in view of the facts, to be alleviated by the Supreme court."

Defence lawyers for Pietruszka, who was convicted of instigating the murder on Piotrowski's uncorroborated evidence, asked the court to quash his conviction or order a retrial. The three junior officers sought to have their sentences cut.

Judge Mikos said: "A thorough analysis of the documents relating to the evidence shows that Pietruszka was the initiator of the attempt on Father Popieluszko's life."

The defence says the trial is unconstitutional and that military leaders should be tried by military courts.

The federal prosecutor plans to show that the armed forces used an illegal system of repression to fight guerrillas that led the armed forces to commit crimes against citizens, who in many cases had nothing to do with the rebels.

Hundreds of policemen with rifles and armoured riot cars threw a security cordon and checkpoints around the federal court building in central Buenos Aires.

But the defendants, including former Presidents Jorge Videla, Roberto Viola and Leopoldo Galtieri, were not present at the opening session. They have denied the charges.

The appeals court has said they need not attend hearings unless specifically ordered to do so. But they will have to be present for any sentencing — the ex-leaders face jail terms of up to 25 years if convicted.

All but one of the former leaders are in jail, five in connection to the so-called "dirty war" charges and three in relation to Arg-

entina's defeat by Britain in the South Atlantic war of 1982.

More than 2,200 witnesses are expected to testify in the trial, which is due to last about six months.

Federal appeals court President Carlos Arslanian Monday questioned ministers of Peron's government about a decree ordering the armed forces to "annihilate the action" of subversives.

Italo Luder, who served as acting president briefly in late 1975, said the decree brought the armed forces into the fight against guerrillas but in no way authorised them to use illegal methods of repression.

Mr. Luder said that he opposed the military coup and became aware of widespread human rights violations through the press, foreign governments, international organisations as well as the admission of military leaders themselves.

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Four more killed in violence-hit Indian city

NEW DELHI (R) — Four more people were killed and 60, including a top politician, were hurt as violence raged in the West Indian city of Ahmedabad over government policy on minorities, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported Tuesday.

The news agency said two people were killed Tuesday morning when police opened fire to disperse fighting supporters and opponents of a policy reserving quotas of jobs and college places for minority groups.

It said Indubhai Patel, leader of the major Janata Party opposition group, was taken to hospital after he was injured by pro-reservation crowds who attacked his car.

PTI said two other people died when crowds in lorries armed with stones and burning rags went on a rampage of looting and arson in several city suburbs Monday night.

It said nine people were taken to hospital with bullet wounds. At least 22 people have died in the past week in Gujarat state, of which Ahmedabad is the capital, in violence sparked by student-led protests at the reservation policy.

The campaign was launched last February, three months after the state announced new job and college quotas.

The violence continued despite the arrival of troop reinforcements in the riot-scarred city.

The army stepped up patrols and took over the curfew-bound old walled areas of the city Monday when police mutinied after a colleague was hacked to death by protesters.

PTI said the policeman was escorting investigators probing reports of what the news agency called police atrocities during the protests.

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Sino-Soviet talks end with no 'real' progress

PEKING (R) — Chinese special envoy Qian Qichen arrived home Tuesday after more talks in Moscow on Sino-Soviet normalisation, a goal still apparently nagged on China's demand for the Kremlin to make the first concession.

Asked at Peking Airport if there had been any movement towards removal of China's "three obstacles" to better relations with Moscow, the Vice Foreign Minister told reporters: "Significant progress has not been achieved."

China has repeatedly said that efforts towards full détente were being hindered by the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, Moscow's backing for Vietnam's occupation of Kampuchea and Soviet troops massed along China's borders. The Soviet Union has so far declined to act on these complaints.

Top leader Deng Xiaoping last week appeared to offer a way forward to the new Soviet leadership, which has expressed hopes for a major improvement in ties.

While insisting on the three obstacles, Mr. Deng told former British Prime Minister Edward Heath that if the Soviets found it difficult to remove all three simultaneously, a start could be made

by removing one of them. "In any event, a first step towards removal should be taken," he added.

Mr. Deng told reporters, also last week, that the Kremlin could most sensibly achieve this gesture by encouraging a Vietnamese pullout from Kampuchea.

During Mr. Qian Qichen's Moscow meeting Monday with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko, he noted the wishes expressed by new Soviet party chief Mikhail Gorbachev and other leaders for a significant improvement in bilateral relations.

China waits for the Soviet Union to make a move in this regard, the New China News Agency quoted him as saying.

Despite the apparent lack of real progress, the two sides announced Monday night that they would hold another session of talks — their seventh — in Peking in October.

China and the Soviet Union, once firm allies, split two decades ago on doctrinal grounds after Nikita Khrushchev denounced Stalinism.

Relations deteriorated to the point of frontier clashes in 1969 and remained frigid until 1982 when the two sides began the present series of discussions.

Vietnam refuses to free reeducation camp inmates

HANOI (R) — Vietnamese leader Le Duc Tho says he will not free re-education camp inmates to enable them to go to the United States — a stand seen by diplomats as a setback to prospects of diplomatic ties with Washington.

Mr. Tho also told Reuters in an interview that Washington should begin talks on normalising relations with Hanoi and said American actions elsewhere in the world showed the United States had not learned from its defeat in Vietnam 10 years ago.

Asked about re-education camp inmates, Vietnam's negotiator at the 1973 Paris peace talks, said: "We cannot turn them over to the American side for one simple reason: These people were guilty of war crimes."

Western diplomats in Hanoi said his stand was an obstacle to the normalisation of relations with Washington, which has offered to resettle people held by Vietnam as political prisoners.

Authorities here say only about 7,000 civilians and military personnel associated with the former U.S.-backed South Vietnamese government are still in re-education camps.

Western diplomats say the figure is probably nearer 15,000. Mr. Tho said through an interpreter that as far as he knew the detainees' release was not an American condition for normalisation of relations.

He said it was "high time" the United States ended what he called its policy of confrontation against Vietnam and entered into negotiations on establishing relations.

Mr. Tho said that as a gesture of goodwill Vietnam imposed no conditions on normalisation of ties.

"Whether it can happen or not depends on the United States," he said.

Mr. Tho also said the question

of U.S. servicemen missing in action (MIAs) from the war was not a major obstacle to normalisation.

Washington has repeatedly urged Hanoi to step up efforts to locate the remains of 2,477 MIAs in Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea.

Mr. Tho said Vietnam was trying to resolve the issue.

"What good is it for Vietnam to continue to hold these remains, these bones?" he asked.

Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach said earlier a U.S. team would be allowed to visit Vietnam in June to inspect a B-52 crash site but said this was a special case and appeared to rule out further visits unless ties were normalised.

Mr. Tho said: "I think that what Mr. Thach meant is that a normal process is going on for a solution of this issue. But the normalisation of relations will facilitate the search for the remains of MIAs."

Mr. Tho, 74, was in good spirits and health during the 90-minute interview at the Communist Party Central Committee Headquarters.

He was dressed in a simple olive green tunic buttoned to the neck, matching trousers and brown sandals.

A ranking politburo member tipped to succeed ailing Communist Party leader Le Duan, Mr. Tho said: "I am one of the leaders of Vietnam, just one. I don't have any unique power."

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